A Martial Odyssey

(A Martial Odyssey)

Volume 04

The Immortal Realm

Edmund Shen

Story Description:

"It is said that when a martial exponent reached the highest state of divinity of their arts, they be able to transcend into Celestials, overcoming the limitation of life and death. And as Celestials, they have to overcome seven celestial divinity, Genesis, Enlighten, Emotion, Transverse, Seventh Sense, Crisis and Ascend in order to transcend to the Heavens."

A Martial Odyssey is an epic quasi-fantasy/wuxia fiction, of a young man Yi Ping as he braved untold dangers in the martial fraternity. The powerful Honor Manor rules the Orthodox Martial Fraternity, yet there are other equally mysterious martial clans that are outside the influence of the orthodox fraternity; like the Eternal Ice Palace, the Virtuous Palace and the Celestial Palace.

When the Celestial Fairy of the Eternal Ice Palace is rumored to pass away, it immediately attracted the attention of numerous exponents that undertake the perilous journey to the Heavenly Mountains for the martial secrets of the Eternal Ice Palace.

Original Story can be found here: <u>Link</u>

Chapter 241: The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien

After a few hours of rest, Yi Ping was awakened by several maids who hastily entered the bed chamber. They were polite and entered quietly with their heads lowered.

The leading maiden alone held a sword by her side. Yi Ping thought that it was a little weird but he thought no further of that because at this moment, the Goddess Lessica was looking at him intently.

The Goddess Lessica said shyly as she held the blanket tightly to her naked self, "My lord, they are here to take you to the Verdant Palace."

The leading maiden said quietly without looking at Yi Ping or the Goddess Lessica, "Our condolences to the Great Lord Yi Ping, we are here to take you to the Verdant Palace. We trust that you have a good rest. At the same time we are here to take the Goddess Lessica to her quarter."

Yi Ping looked at the Goddess Lessica. This was exactly what she had told him; in a few hour time they would come to escort you to the Verdant Palace and as for her, they would first question her about you.

The Goddess Lessica had said to him, "I will never betray your faith in me. You can trust me in this matter."

Yi Ping said aloud as he grabbed his swords, "Wait for me outside first. I will come out shortly."

All the maidens hailed softly as they quickly left the room.

When they had left the room, the Goddess Lessica quickly kissed him on his cheek as she slipped on her robe, whispering gently. "Take care..."

Before Yi Ping could say anything to her, she had already tiptoed out the room in a hurry!

Yi Ping sighed softly...

He had said to her a few hours ago, "You know. We can put on an act but to use you for my own nourishment, I rather not. Also, I am not as weaken as supposed. Moreover, I don't belong in here and..." The Goddess Lessica lowered her glances, "I perfectly understand. I can sniff the scent of the Great Goddess Fantian on you...some things will never change..."

Yi Ping asked, "Eh?"

But she was silent on this.

Casting what had happened earlier aside, he began to arrange his robe. As he walked out, he saw that a dozen maidens were already quietly waiting in an orderly manner for him.

The same leading maiden said quietly, "My lord, please follow us to the Verdant Palace. The Great Lord Xuan Yuan seeks your audience now."

Yi Ping asked her, "What is your name?"

The leading maiden was startled but she quickly composed herself to say, "I am just a lowly servant. There is no need for my lord to know a nobody like me..."

Yi Ping sighed softly as he asked firmly, "What is your name?"

The leading maiden turned ashen immediately as she said quickly, "Please forgive my improper impoliteness! The Goddess Dion Les Fey of the Villa Clan pays my deference to my lord!"

As Yi Ping looked at her, he could sense a subtle hint of defiance in this attractive maiden. He thought, "Like the Goddess Lessica, they are all not willing to serve in this manner?"

He felt a little pitiful for her...

The Goddess Dion said with trembling voice, "Shall I escort my lord to the Verdant Palace now?"

Yi Ping said in a soothing voice to her, "Do not be afraid. I am just curious what your name is. As simple as that. I have no wish to punish you. Moreover I do not have the right to do so."

The Goddess Dion replied with frightful expression, "My lord has every right. I am wrong..."

But Yi Ping interrupted her as he said gently, "I am just a traveler and a guest. I do not have the right. I am not used to being greet as a lord. You can disperse with the formalities. Just call me Yi Ping if you wish to, alright?"

The Goddess Dion nodded slowly, not knowing what to say...

Yi Ping smiled, "Let's go now."

The Goddess Dion waved her hand and immediately, the remaining twelve maidens began to walk in an orderly manner behind them!

Yi Ping could sense that the atmosphere now had become less tense and several of the maidens were even secretly smiling at him!

The Goddess Dion said shyly, "My lord, may you please follow my lead!"
Yi Ping immediately said, "Aye!"

As they continued walking for a distance, Yi Ping asked earnestly all of a sudden. "Say, why alone of the rest, you are allowed to carry a sword?"

The Goddess Dion looked at Yi Ping, not knowing what to reply as she stopped dead in her tracks.

Yi Ping quickly smiled gently, just in case she got the wrong idea that he was interrogating her. "Don't get me wrong. I mean, are you a special rank or something? I am just being curious."

The Goddess Dion heavy a soft sigh of relief as she smiled, "My lord, it is because the Villa Clan practices a special form of divine practice which we call the Divine Sword Practice. This special form of divine practice makes us inseparable from our divine swords. That is why only the Villa Clan is allowed to carry our own swords with us."

Yi Ping nodded slowly as he began to think, "Why is that, this sounds so familiar?"

All of a sudden he was shook by a thought as he looked at the Goddess Dion again as he thought, "The Ascension Sect! The Supreme Celestials of the Ascension Sect have the exact divine practice too! Can it be that the special divine sword is actually imparted by a Desolate Immortal of the

Villa Clan?"

That was because he had heard from Alice that not all the Desolate Immortals were eradicated from the Immortal Realm and that the consequent conflicts between the Celestial Immortals and the Desolate Immortals had at least taken a further several thousands of years before the remaining Desolate Immortals had gone into hiding!

The Goddess Dion asked curiously, "My lord, is something the matter?"

Yi Ping gave a smile quickly, "Nothing. I am just thinking that the Villa Clan must be a special clan on its own."

The Goddess Dion was startled as she looked at Yi Ping with melancholy eyes before she answered softly, "It is..."

But she quickly regained her composure to say, "Let's us be on our way."

They did not talk further after this.

When they had entered through the gates of the Verdant Palace, Yi Ping first impression was that it was only too imposing and that no words could describe its grandness.

The Goddess Dion said quietly, "We have almost reached. After this is the Antiquity Hall of the Universe."

There were hundreds of Desolate Immortals in the grand hall when Yi Ping had entered it. All the Desolate Immortals were all talking among themselves.

Upon Yi Ping's approach, almost all of them stopped their conversations and were looking into his direction!

Yi Ping immediately felt uneasy at the many eyes that were upon him and he wondered why they were all looking at him with such weird expression?

All of a sudden the Great Lord Shenmu had hastily walked from the crowd as he laughed jovially, "So our most important guest of honor is here. Quick summon the Great Lord Xuan Yuan now!"

He turned around to laugh loudly, "Open your eyes! He is the one that

have fought against the two bitches earlier! What do we call him? He is the hero of the Verdant Palace!"

At the loud announcement of the Great Lord Shenmu, all the Desolate Immortals quickly greeted Yi Ping at the same time, causing the grand hall to explode with their outbursts!

The Great Lord Shenmu laughed jovially as he patted Yi Ping on his shoulder, "Look! You are so popular already!"

Yi Ping smiled weakly, "Not at all..."

"Not at all? So someone gains his popularity because of someone here decides to call us bitches?" A familiar feminine said unhappily.

Immediately the Great Lord Shenmu and the rest of the crowd fell into dead silent as the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien and the Heaven Goddess Zero walked into the grand hall!

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien stared coldly at the Great Lord Shenmu as she continued, "Eh, do you dare to say it again in front of my face again?"

The Great Lord Shenmu began to fluster as he said quickly, "I don't mean it..."

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien interrupted coldly, "You don't mean it or you don't dare to say it?"

Many of the Desolate Immortals were caught in a dilemma. They had never seen the Great Lord Shenmu looked this flustered before.

One of the Desolate Immortals quickly said aloud, "This is the domain of the Great Lord Xuan Yuan and the Great Lord Shenmu. Do you think that with your current immortal positioning, you are even fit to address the Great Lord Shenmu in this manner?"

Perhaps he thought he could score some points with the Great Lord Shenmu by speaking on his behalf but instead of gaining appreciation, the Great Lord Shenmu turned to look at him angrily before he said rudely. "Do you think you are even fit to address the two Great Goddesses?"

That Desolate Immortal immediately turned ashen as he quickly lowered his head awkwardly!

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien raised her eyebrows in surprise as she looked at the Great Lord Shenmu before she said coldly, "I am glad you still have some saving grace after all."

The Heaven Goddess Zero looked at Yi Ping with a smile, "So you are a hero of the Verdant Palace now? What a pity that you have chosen to be their lackeys!"

Yi Ping knew that she was trying to provoke him but he was calm. He was usually not bothered with petty meddles. But if it was a fight then maybe he would really be interested but he was not the type to pick a fight because he liked to fight.

The Great Lord Shenmu asked weakly, "May I know what brings our two Great Goddesses here?"

The Heaven Goddess Zero looked a little annoyed that Yi Ping had remained expressionless but she answered nonetheless to the Great Lord Shenmu, "We are here to attend the grand unison of the Great Lord Xuan Yuan naturally. Why else should we be here for?"

The Great Lord Shenmu groaned, "The Firmament Citadel has never ever sent any representatives to the Verdant Palace. I am just so surprised."

The Heaven Goddess Zero hummed coldly, "Things may change. After all, if we did not come today then we may never know what you are calling us behind our back!"

The Great Lord Shenmu smiled weakly as he said, "Please be seated then!"

When he had pointed to a corner, a lingering fragrance had entered the great hall and said sweetly, "Hey. Look who here? It is the two bitches from the Firmament Citadel!"

Everyone in the grand hall, including Yi Ping and the Great Lord Shenmu were startled by the sweet voice. The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien and the Heaven Goddess Zero were equally startled as they turned around just in time to witness the Alluring Goddess Theresa walking into the grand hall!

The crowd was even more startled to see the Alluring Goddess Theresa than the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien and the Heaven Goddess Zero!

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien hummed coldly, "I have thought who is here. So it is the Queen of the Bitches that is here!"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa laughed alluringly, "Ye, ye! Your queen is here now. Hurry and bow before me!"

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien laughed jovially, "Are you so shameless? If I really bow to you then I will have to address you as that title."

The Heaven Goddess Zero smiled, "Then it will be such a great loss of face for you!"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled faintly, "If you dare, I don't mind. After all, I have two little bitches here for company."

The Great Lord Shenmu interrupted politely, "I don't know that the Alluring Goddess Theresa will be here today or else I will surely give you a grand welcome."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled sweetly, "Alas, I have never liked to attend this type of occasion. But..."

She shot a glance at the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien and the Heaven Goddess Zero as she said coldly, "If they can be here for the first time then why can't I come as well?"

The Great Lord Shenmu was render almost speechless as he muttered, "Yes, yes. Come, come..."

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien said all of a sudden, "Since the Alluring Goddess Theresa is here to attend the unison ceremony then we shall not impose ourselves anymore..."

The Great Lord Shenmu panicky said, "It is alright. You...can stay...not imposing at all..."

Yi Ping smiled weakly. It was because it was only too obvious to him that the Great Lord Shenmu wanted the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien to stay as long as possible.

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien pointed at Yi Ping all of a sudden, "Why are you smiling like this? How dare you take liberties with us yesterday and now this!"

She turned to look at the Great Lord Shenmu, "Everyone knows what had happened in the street yesterday and now you have witnessed his outrageous smile. Great Lord Shenmu, if you still value the close ties between the Verdant Palace and the Firmament Citadel then surrender him to us!"

Yi Ping smiled bitterly to himself. Even he could see plainly that they were here for him and that attending the unison ceremony was just their lame excuse...

The Heaven Goddess Zero smiled as she looked intently at Yi Ping, "Do you dare to come with us? We promise that we won't eat you up."

She added quickly as she looked at the Great Lord Shenmu and the Alluring Goddess Theresa as she whispered, "It will be more dangerous if you are in their company."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa said coldly, "We are not deaf, you know. Fancy you slandering us right in front of us."

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien said firmly, "I am not asking you. I am asking him!"

The Great Lord Shenmu said with equal firmness, "He is a guest of the Verdant Palace. You can't take him away just like this!"

The Heaven Goddess Zero interrupted, "But he don't look like a guest. More like a captive of the Verdant Palace, am I right?"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled faintly as she looked at the Great Lord Shenmu, "What a tricky question. Only idiots will answer that..."

But the Great Lord Shenmu had already answered, "Of course not!..."

The Heaven Goddess Zero laughed softly, "Good! Since he is a guest and not a captive of the Verdant Palace then he is free to leave as he wishes. You have heard the Great Lord Shenmu!"

The Great Lord Shenmu was startled as he quickly protested, "No, that is not what I mean..."

The Heaven Goddess Zero immediately reached out for Yi Ping as she smirked coldly, "Then good! I am taking him away now!"

But before Yi Ping could move away from her, the Alluring Goddess Theresa had intercepted the Heaven Goddess Zero with a quick hand attack as she laughed along. "Wait a minute! I am taking him away as well!"

The Heaven Goddess Zero retaliated with several quick fists as she said coldly, "I beg your pardon again! We have claimed him first!"

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien had also joined in the fight as she raised her fists against the Alluring Goddess Theresa, "You claim to be the number one fighter so two of us versus you isn't so shameful, isn't it?"

In the next instant, dozens of shadow fists were flurried in all directions as the three maidens began to fight in earnest!

Yi Ping quickly exclaimed aloud, "Wait! Stop it! Great Lord Shenmu, you are not stopping them?"

The Great Lord Shenmu smiled weakly, "I only know how to fight and I don't know how to stop them..."

Yi Ping was exasperated as he quickly dashed into their midst as he displayed the Asper Continuum, immediately displaying dozens of shadowy palms around him!

The three maidens quickly increased the pace of their attacks and they were all fighting Yi Ping at the same time now!

The Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled, "Hero, don't think that because I want you, I will be inclined to show mercy. That won't be the case. That is because..."

All of a sudden there were five brilliant white lights as she switched her palm to a claw attack, imploding thunderously and dispersing Yi Ping's Asper Continuum!

Yi Ping was secretly startled, "She can break my strokes in such a short time?"

No sooner was Yi Ping caught off guarded, the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien and the Heaven Goddess Zero had struck him on his chest at the same time with a thunderous impact, sending him to fly backward!

The Heaven Goddess Zero giggled softly at the same time she had struck Yi Ping, "Oh sorry! I can't resist taking some advantage! Is it painful?"

As Yi Ping got up, he could feel his chest trembling with pain!

It seemed that the blows that he had received were tremendous indeed. It was a lucky thing that he had attained the Ninth Positioning Rank or else the blows that he had just received would surely have damaged his golden body!

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien gave him an eye candy as she smiled, "Sister, he is not so tough after all. I have thought that he is really good!"

The Heaven Goddess Zero smiled as she looked coldly at everyone in the grand hall, "That is because I have underestimated him earlier but it seems that he is really nothing special at all!"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa laughed, "Oh well! Since he is nothing special at all, why don't you give him to me instead?"

She winked at Yi Ping, "You didn't think that you alone can handle the three of us?"

Yi Ping smiled weakly as he quickly said, "Not at all. I wouldn't dare!"

He thought to himself, "At least I have stopped them from fighting temporary. But the three of them together are really formidable. I can't find a loophole in their moves at all..."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa turned to look maliciously at the Dark

Goddess Xia Hsien and the Heaven Goddess Zero as she smiled, "Alas! It seems that we can't play a little longer. It seems that the host is finally here!"

Indeed barely had she said that, the Great Lord Xuan Yuan had walked into the grand hall. He was garbed in red and scarlet finery. He appeared none the pleased as he stared coldly at the Alluring Goddess Theresa, the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien and the Heaven Goddess Zero!

The entire grand hall fell into deep disquiet as hundreds of Desolate Immortals quickly greeted the Great Lord Xuan Yuan!

The Great Lord Shenmu smiled uneasily as he said, "My lord, it is my fault that I can't stop them from creating an unrest."

The Great Lord Xuan Yuan touched the hilt of his sword as he said slowly and coldly, "This is my domain. If anyone thinks that they can create a din in my domain then I shall not be polite. If you want to beat the dog then you have to see who the master is..."

The malevolent air that was in the grand hall was suddenly eerie and even Yi Ping could feel a great sense of uneasiness. It was as though the Great Lord Xuan Yuan would explode in anger at any time. He was beginning to fear for the Alluring Goddess Theresa, the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien and the Heaven Goddess Zero!

The Great Lord Xuan Yuan continued to say coldly, "No matter whom you think you are..."

"So who is the dog and who is the master?" The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien asked all of a sudden. Her eyes and smiles were full of innocent and she was altogether earnest!

Yi Ping and everyone in the grand hall were shocked by her direct defiant!

Yi Ping secretly began to admire this Dark Goddess Xia Hsien even as he feared for her as he thought, "She really have guts. No wonder the Great Lord Shenmu admires her so much. Even I am impressed by her..."

All of a sudden the floor beneath the Great Lord Xuan Yuan began to

crackle as the malevolent air of the Great Lord Xuan Yuan began to increase rapidly!

The Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled sweetly as she played with her fingers, "It seems that that the Great Lord Xuan Yuan is really angry, very angry. Soon we have two unfortunate souls here!"

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien giggled softly, "We shall see indeed!"

The Heaven Goddess Zero laughed softly, "Indeed!"

Yi Ping was perplexed as he thought, "Don't they know that they are in a dire straits now? With just the two of them, they are not the match of the Great Lord Xuan Yuan! And moreover, they can't possibly fight so many Desolate Immortals at the same time!"

The Great Lord Xuan Yuan said coldly as the entire hall seemingly grown very dark, "Indeed!"

Chapter 242: The Great Lord Shenmu

Yi Ping thought to himself, "No, this Dark Goddess Xia Hsien looks like a smart person. She won't be so foolish and reckless to provoke the Great Lord Xuan Yuan. But I have no desire to witness whatever plans they have in mind. It may be a result that I don't want to witness..."

The Great Lord Xuan Yuan had already put his hand on his sword hilt when Yi Ping suddenly stepped forward to say respectfully, "Great Lord Xuan Yuan, we have met again. We are all here to attend your happy occasion. Moreover..."

He turned to look at the Alluring Goddess Theresa, the Heaven Goddess Zero and the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien before saying firmly, "Moreover, they are here for me. If there is anyone to blame then let it be me."

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien and the Heaven Goddess Zero had a startled expression as they looked curiously at Yi Ping...

The Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled coldly, "He is nuts. He has no backers and yet he tries to be a hero."

Her words may be almost inaudible but to the experts here, it was all too clear!

All of a sudden the Great Lord Xuan Yuan laughed and his laughter was so explosive that the entire grand hall seemed to be shaking!

Yi Ping thought in alarm, "His internal strength is indeed profound!"

The Great Lord Xuan Yuan said haughtily, "The Oracle Citadel and the Firmament Citadel have long been at odds. I am not surprise that they will come to blows. But I repeat again, this is not the place for you to mess around. But on account of the Great Lord Yi Ping here, I am inclined to be generous today and let this matter pass."

Yi Ping quickly bowed respectfully with his hands, "Thank you for your generosity!"

The Great Lord Xuan Yuan commanded to his aides that were next to him, "Summon the Great Goddess Aeris now for the grand ceremony now!"

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien said coolly, "We are not here to attend your unison ceremony."

The Great Lord Xuan Yuan said coldly, "Then why are you here? You are here to fight me or you are here to be my consort?"

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien smiled coldly as she pointed at Yi Ping, "I want him to come with us. That is my only business here!"

The Great Lord Xuan Yuan smiled coldly, "I am afraid that is not going to be an easy matter. Do you want to know why?"

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien asked wryly, "Why indeed. What if he is willing to go with us?"

The Great Lord Xuan Yuan smiled, "I have invited him here for a good reason and he won't dare to leave with anyone. Moreover, I have the intention to reward the Great Goddess Aeris to my new friend here, the Great Lord Yi Ping!"

At his proclamation, everyone was startled and began to murmur among themselves!

The most shocked one was naturally Yi Ping who quickly replied, "This won't do!"

At the same time, he was asking himself. "How did the Goddess Lessica know of this in advance?"

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien was startled as she took a quick glance at her sister, the Heaven Goddess Zero...

Even the Alluring Goddess Theresa was startled but she quickly composed herself to say, "Now, this is interesting indeed! Now it seems that I can't invite him to my Oracle Citadel now."

The Great Lord Xuan Yuan smiled coldly, "If the World Ruler Fu Xi can promise him anyone he desires, so can I or else it will appear that I am less generous than him."

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien laughed softly as she slipped off her black

robe to reveal a red dress, "This won't do at all. That is because my brother the World Ruler Fu Xi has already decided to make me a consort of the Great Lord Yi Ping!"

Everyone in the grand hall was stunned as they looked at the Great Lord Xuan Yuan, Yi Ping, the Great Lord Shenmu, the Alluring Goddess Theresa, the Heaven Goddess Zero and the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien...

The Great Lord Xuan Yuan raised his eyebrows. He was obviously surprised.

The Great Lord Shenmu quickly said to the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien, "This is not real, am I right?"

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien smiled coldly as she extended her arms, "Do you seriously think I will make a joke like this?"

At the same time the Heaven Goddess Zero had also slipped off her robe to reveal a red dress as she smiled wryly, "My brother the World Ruler Fu Xi has also decreed me as a consort to the Great Lord Yi Ping."

Yi Ping was secretly thinking, "To think that they have even used this trick just to get me..."

He had spent several years in the intrigues of the Martial Fraternity against the most brilliant exponents. He had learnt one thing; there was really no free lunch in this world!

At this moment the Goddess Aeris dressed in red finery had just entered the grand hall, accompanied by a dozen hand maidens. She was startled to see that the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien and the Heaven Goddess Zero were also dressed in a red ceremony dress!

And behind her was the Goddess Lessica!

At her sight, he was secretly pleased to see her again.

But he was soon distracted by the cold and envious look that had flared in the Goddess Aeris as she stared at the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien and the Heaven Goddess Zero...

It was subtle but it was not lost to Yi Ping when he compared it to the

compassionate eyes of the Goddess Lessica.

He thought, "Why is that her eyes are so malevolent now? It is exactly as when I have first met her..."

But he did not have the time to ponder further for the Great Lord Xuan Yuan was asking him coldly now, "So what do you think? Think carefully. Your choice may decide your fate."

Yi Ping smiled weakly as he looked at the Goddess Aeris, the Goddess Lessica, the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien and the Heaven Goddess Zero...

The Alluring Goddess Theresa hummed softly with an alluring smile, "This is really interesting. No matter who he chooses, he will surely end up offending the others. Not making a choice is the worst choice. Unless he is an idiot, he will not make any choice."

Yi Ping smiled bitterly when he had overheard the Alluring Goddess Theresa.

The Alluring Goddess Theresa continued wistfully, "This is the domain of the Great Lord Xuan Yuan. If I were him, the choice is obvious."

Yi Ping took a quick glance at the Alluring Goddess Theresa as he thought curiously, "She appears to be sarcastic but why is that I have a feeling that she is secretly hinting me of something?"

It was because she seemed to be emphasizing to him of the same consequences three times over. Naturally to the others, she appeared to be aiding the Great Lord Xuan Yuan but to Yi Ping, it appeared that she seemed to be giving him a subtle hint.

He had noticed that she was looking at the direction of the Goddess Aeris!

Or was it at the Goddess Lessica that was behind her?

The Great Lord Xuan Yuan said coldly as he addressed Yi Ping, "My friend, so what do you think of my generosity?"

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien smiled mysteriously as she looked at her sister, the Heaven Goddess Zero while lifting her eyes to look directly at Yi Ping. "We are already in our ceremony dresses. Do you have the heart to turn us down?"

The Great Lord Shenmu quickly interrupted, "That is enough already. If you know what is good for you then quickly retract what you have said and we will regard it as a good joke."

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien hummed coldly at him, "So what if I don't?"

The Great Lord Shenmu was speechless as he blinked at the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien, "You..."

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien said coldly, "I am what? I can't hear you properly at all!"

Yi Ping brushed against his sleeves as he raised his hands together as he heaved a soft sigh, "Everyone, pardon me for any disrespect in advance."

Time seemed to have frozen in place as everyone looked at Yi Ping; it was because they knew that he was going to say something soon!

Between the Goddess Aeris, the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien and the Heaven Goddess Zero, who would he choose?

Yi Ping looked at the Great Lord Xuan Yuan as he pointed in the direction of the Goddess Lessica, "The Goddess Lessica, I want her to be my consort."

The Goddess Aeris was flabbergasted as she turned around to stare at the Goddess Lessica and so did all the other maidens that were around her!

Even the Great Lord Xuan Yuan and Great Lord Shenmu had raised their eyebrows, obviously quite surprised at the choice. Yi Ping would actually pick a lowly goddess as his consort?

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien and the Heaven Goddess Zero were ashen as they stared blankly at Yi Ping. It came to a shock to them as they were expecting him to pick them over the Goddess Aeris, after all having two Ninth Positioning Immortals were way better than a single Eighth Positioning Immortal!

The Alluring Goddess Theresa was smiling as she said softly, "Is that so? So this is the result. What a pleasant surprise!"

Yi Ping raised his voice again, "Great Lord Xuan Yuan, I have made my choice. What do you think?"

The Great Lord Xuan Yuan nodded as he smiled broadly, "So be it then. I will grant the Goddess Lessica to you."

He commanded the Goddess Lessica, "Why are you still standing there for? He is now your new master. Go with him!"

The Goddess Lessica quickly bowed hastily as she said quietly before walking next to Yi Ping, "Yes sire."

The Great Lord Xuan Yuan turned to stare malevolently at the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien and the Heaven Goddess Zero, "It seems that the World Ruler Fu Xi is going to be disappointed. It seems that the two of you are equally disappointed. My friend here it seems has decided to thrown in his lot with me. As I am in a good mood today so I won't pursue today's matter but…"

He paused briefly before he continued coldly to the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien and the Heaven Goddess Zero, "But only for this once. Now leave!"

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien heaved a soft sigh, "I have rejected countless patrons and to think that finally I have an opportunity to pursue my only interest, I will be rejected."

The Heaven Goddess Zero was blinking her eyes rapidly as she muttered, "Hmph! I still do not believe what I am hearing!..."

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien hummed coldly as she turned around to face the entrance, "Let's go sister! Away from this accursed place!"

Suddenly Yi Ping said aloud as he flashed to the entrance, "Hold!"

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien and the Heaven Goddess Zero raised their eyebrows as they looked at Yi Ping curiously.

The Heaven Goddess Zero said coldly, "So what do you want? So you are not going to let us leave? You think that we have not disgrace ourselves enough?"

Yi Ping bowed respectfully with his hands, "Yi Ping pays my respect to the two goddesses. If you are not offended, I will like to accompany you back to see the World Ruler Fu Xi."

The Heaven Goddess Zero broke into a smile, "Oh really? Welcome, welcome indeed!"

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien was equally delighted as she quickly turned around to smile at the Great Lord Xuan Yuan and the Great Lord Shenmu, "You have heard him, am I right?"

The Great Lord Xuan Yuan had turned ashen and almost everyone that was in the hall was trembling with fear. It was because they could all see the raging blood eyes that were on the Great Lord Xuan Yuan!

The Great Lord Shenmu was observing the changing emotions that were on the Great Lord Xuan Yuan's eyes and knew that this Yi Ping had clearly tested the limits of his patience!

So he flashed angrily in front of Yi Ping and said coldly as he raised his iron fist, "My friend! You are not leaving here!"

Yi Ping had already known that this would happen so he said coolly, "Do we really have to fight?"

The Great Lord Shenmu hummed coldly, "That is right, my friend."

Yi Ping sighed softly, "I don't really want to fight you."

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien hummed coldly, "He is clearly your inferior and moreover this is your turf. Do you think that we will be watching on the shelf and let you hurt our guest? I am expecting more honor coming from you, my friend."

The Great Lord Shenmu shuddered a little before he smiled weakly as he looked at her, "I don't want to fight either but he is clearly not showing any face to us!" All of a sudden the Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled alluringly as she clapped her hands, "A fight! Good! A normal fight will be too messy and too ugly. Why don't we have a contest of power and will?"

The Great Lord Shenmu looked at her coldly for a while and hesitated, "Who is the challenger and who will be the challenged?"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa laughed softly, "To be fair, you will be the challenger and he will be the challenged."

There was a hint of sarcasm in her eyes and it was obvious to everyone that she was taking delight in the situation.

Mutterings could be heard in the hall that the Alluring Goddess Theresa was at her usual self and delighting in the misery of the others by stirring even more shit than usual.

Obviously the Alluring Goddess Theresa had clearly overheard them but she laughed it off, "Look, I am trying to be a good guest and suggesting that we keep the disturbances to the minimum as not to ruin today happy occasion. Therefore a contest of power will suffice!"

Yi Ping smiled coldly at the Alluring Goddess Theresa before he looked at the Great Lord Xuan Yuan and said, "I can agree to the term but can I go afterward?"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled enchantingly, "Well, that is good I say but I am not the host. I can only suggest but I cannot decide for the host or else it will be too disrespectful!"

The Great Lord Xuan Yuan smirked coldly as he took a few steps before sitting coolly on his throne, "It is decided then. You will pit your prowess against the Great Lord Shenmu. But I must warn you first that you may die because of your actions. Not just from the Great Lord Shenmu but the World Ruler Fantian isn't someone as easy to talk to as I am."

Yi Ping bowed with his hands and said humbly, "I thank you for your generosity and kind advise but I have already made up my mind!"

He stole a glance at the Goddess Lessica and thought, "Last night, I have promised to take her away from this place. I have no intentions to go to the World Ruler Fu Xi either. As soon as I am out of here, I am going my way. I cannot remain in this realm much longer."

The Great Lord Shenmu roared angrily as an auburn aura burst forth from him, startling everyone including Yi Ping, "I won't go easy on you!"

Yi Ping took one step as he thought, "What a terrifying and imposing aura...and...power..."

The Goddess Lessica was so startled that she called out panicky, "Great Lord Yi Ping, be vigilant! This is his true strength!"

There was a burning golden leaf like sigil that had burst forth from the Great Lord Shenmu's forehead as he raised his palm forward, "If you are able to take a blow then I will let you go freely!"

Yi Ping shouted as he readied a defensive stance with his palm, "So shall it be then!"

The Great Goddess Zero and the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien said at the same time to Yi Ping, "Be careful!..."

They gasped softly as they looked at each other before they averted their glances in awkward silent.

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien quickly regained her composure to say tenderly to Yi Ping, "The Great Lord Shenmu is a titan among the gods. For you to be on the defensive against him, is already a disadvantage. You just be very careful."

Yi Ping was startled by her sudden tenderness while at the same time, there was a hint of jealousy in the eyes of the Great Lord Shenmu!

He nodded. He knew the principle all too well as a fighter. In a fight, it was all about gaining an upper hand and by gaining an upper hand, it mean gaining an attack opportunity. Being on the defensive was too taxing, both physically and mentally. Moreover, he could not dodge it. He had to brave himself for the blow!

All of a sudden the Great Lord Shenmu gave a mighty shout that was deafening as his auburn aura began to strengthen as he leapt forward

with his palm toward Yi Ping!

The Heaven Goddess Zero and many others gasped, "This is his Divine Exclamation!"

With a great shout, Yi Ping immediately mustered his Creation Universal Force to brace himself for the blow but all of a sudden he caught the watchful eyes of the Great Lord Xuan Yuan and the Alluring Goddess Theresa, a thought began to dawn upon him and he immediately switched his martial force to the Martial Emperor Unifying Force. At the same time, he had also summoned mustered his Golden Invincible Force as seven golden hovering discs began to wisp around him!

All of a sudden there was a thunderous thunderclap that exploded in hues of brilliant blinding gold and auburn that caused the ground beneath them to sink by one feet as flying slabs and debris flew dangerously in all directions!

When the brilliant hues began to die down, everyone could see that the Great Lord Shenmu was trembling on the same spot while a trembling Yi Ping had his Golden Invincible Force dissipated; he had coughed out blood as he took seven rapid steps back!

Yi Ping was dazzled by the impact as he quickly stabilized his vital energies as he secretly sighed to himself as he wiped the side of his mouth with his long sleeve, "He is truly extraordinary!"

At the last minute, he had decided against replying on the Universal Creation Force to withstand the Desolate Force of the Great Lord Shenmu. It was because he had noticed that the Great Lord Xuan Yuan and the Alluring Goddess Theresa was quietly observing him intently. This had the effect of alerting him not to display his full prowess in their presence.

Everyone was gasping and was in awe of the conflicting display of raw power that was displayed by the two opponents but it was obvious to everyone that the Great Lord Shenmu was the better opponent!

Yi Ping rubbed the blood off his mouth and said with a trembling, "I can go now?"

The Great Lord Shenmu said breathlessly, "Well done. You can withstand my almighty Divine Exclamation..."

The Great Lord Xuan Yuan narrowed his brows as he said coldly, "Yes, you can go now."

The ashen and trembling Yi Ping coughed out another bout of blood as he bowed with his hands to everyone before staggering to the entrance as he murmured, "Fare...well...then!..."

The Goddess Lessica gasped softly as she flew to his side to support him, asking with great concern. "Are you...well?"

The Heaven Goddess Zero walked behind Yi Ping before she turned around to smile coldly, "What an eye candy fight. I shall not impose on your happy occasion anymore!"

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien flashed a dangerous look at the envy filled Goddess Aeris as she chucked coldly, "What are you looking at? So what if you are a Great Goddess now? Our level disparity is too great. Ten thousands year ago when I am in the same level as you, I can still take away your life in an instant. This is the difference between you and a natural Desolate Goddess like me. Therefore in my eyes, you can never deserve the title of a Great Goddess."

The Goddess Aeris replied coldly, "Have you in your arrogance forgets that this is the domain of the Great Lord Xuan Yuan. This is not the place for you to bitch around..."

All of a sudden before she could finish, she was given a hard slap by the Alluring Goddess Theresa who smiled enchanting to her. "Shut your crap. You are not fit to speak!"

The Goddess Aeris was shocked for she had thought that the Alluring Goddess Theresa was on the side of the Great Lord Xuan Yuan so she quickly turned in the direction of the Great Lord Xuan Yuan to seek for his justice!

But to her utter shock, the Great Lord Xuan Yuan simply said coldly. "You are not fit to speak here."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa hummed coldly to the Goddess Aeris, "You very well know where your station is!"

The Goddess Aeris held her redden face as she stared blankly at the entrance where Yi Ping, the Goddess Lessica, the Heaven Goddess Zero and the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien had just disappeared from view...

She was heard muttering, "Today is my occasion, my happy occasion. Why am I being subjected to this humiliation..."

The Great Lord Shenmu turned to bow respectfully to the Great Lord Xuan Yuan, "My lord, shall I pursue? We are letting them off just like this?"

The Great Lord Xuan Yuan smiled coldly, "Do you think that you are superior to this Great Lord Yi Ping?"

The Great Lord Shenmu and the hundreds of guests all had a perplexed look as they looked at the Great Lord Xuan Yuan for an answer. It was obvious to everyone while Yi Ping was strong but he was inferior to the martial power of the Great Lord Shenmu!

Judging from Yi Ping's martial display in fact, they could very well tell that he was just at the beginner stage of the Ninth Immortal Positioning. In terms of raw power and the time he had taken to muster his defensive stance into action, the experienced Desolate Immortals here had already known that Yi Ping's power was beneath the Great Lord Shenmu.

The Great Lord Xuan Yuan hummed coldly, "He is above all of you here!"

One Desolate Immortal said, "We are so many. He can't possibly fight all of us here. Moreover by coming here so openly, the Firmament Citadel is openly challenging the Verdant Palace. We can't just let this slight go just like this!"

Another Desolate Immortal said coldly, "That's right! Even if the World Ruler Fu Xi is here, we are not afraid!"

The Great Lord Xuan Yuan smiled coldly, "Really? Then why don't you say that to the World Ruler Fu Xi. He is outside now."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled coldly, "So not even the Great Lord Shenmu is able to detect the presence of the World Ruler Fu Xi?"

Everyone was gasping as they quickly looked at the entrance. All they could see was a divine sword that was sticking in the middle of the entrance and the drifting words of the World Ruler Fu Xi could be heard echoing, "Pardon our impudence. This is a gift from the Firmament Citadel..."

Chapter 243: The Alluring Goddess Theresa

It was not long before Yi Ping had left the Verdant Palace and he found himself in a forested area. The Goddess Lessica was supporting him as he limped even as they followed the Heaven Goddess Zero and the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien.

He was surprised that there were actually woods and hills on the Ancient Fortress. The Ancient Fortress was a vast citadel fortress as large as the Stellar Sanctuary itself.

All of a sudden the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien stopped her rapid steps as she turned around to smile coldly, "We are on neutral grounds now. If they want to pursue us, they would have already done so. You can relax your guard now."

The Goddess Lessica stammered, "We are really safe now?"

Yi Ping sighed softly, "It appears to be so."

The Heaven Goddess Zero smiled wryly, "Appears to be so? Why do you say that?"

Yi Ping sighed as he shook himself upright, looking keenly at them before saying. "That may be so but I am not out of danger yet."

The Heaven Goddess Zero asked, "Oh?"

Yi Ping bowed with both his hands as he said, "I have to thank the two of you for your kind rescue earlier. Now I have to take my leave!"

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien said coldly as she raised her beaming fingers, "So the danger that you mention is really from the two of us. How dare you take your leave as you please? Outrageous! No matter what you say today, you are going to the Firmament Citadel with us whether you like it or not..."

She paused to smile wickedly to her sister, the Heaven Goddess Zero. "... And no matter if you are intact or in pieces."

The Heaven Goddess Zero said malevolently, "Therefore you have better be wise or else the consequences that are waiting for you won't be enjoyable at all."

The Goddess Lessica quickly said to Yi Ping, "Great Lord Yi Ping...the two Great Goddesses seem sincere enough to invite us to the Firmament Citadel. It is not every day that we have a chance to visit the abode of the World Ruler Fu Xi."

Yi Ping turned to look at the Goddess Lessica. He knew from her moving eyes that she had only said that to give him a chance to reconsider and to save him from an awkward situation. Moreover at his present condition, he may not be able to fend off a Great Goddess, moreover there were two here!

However his expressions remained defiant as he rubbed his nose to say wryly, "So we are going to fight?"

The Heaven Goddess Zero laughed softly, "That will depend on you."

Yi Ping replied solemnly, "I will choose to fight my way out. However..."

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien raised her beautiful brows as she smiled enthrallingly, "However what? Surely you are not thinking of bargaining with us?"

Yi Ping was somewhat disturbed by her enthralling smile as he smiled bitterly, "Even if I can beat the two of you off, I still have to fight off two others that are watching us in the shadows."

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien laughed, "So you have already known that you are being watched..."

All of a sudden the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien paused in her tracks as she looked around her surroundings, "There are two?..."

Even the Heaven Goddess Zero was startled as she moved gracefully to her back before whispering, "Are you sure?"

Yi Ping was startled by their unusual movements as he looked around him.

Immediately he could see a shadow in visible view and it was the World Ruler Fu Xi!

The World Ruler Fu Xi sighed softly as he looked at the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien and the Heaven Goddess Zero, "You are too careless and did not know that you are being followed."

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien and the Heaven Goddess Zero were startled as they scanned their surroundings keenly as they said together, "Who has the audacity to follow us?"

Immediately there was a soft laughter as an alluring lady emerged from the shadows; it was the Alluring Goddess Theresa!

Yi Ping, the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien and the Heaven Goddess Zero were all startled by her presence as they did not expect to be followed by her!

The Alluring Goddess Theresa laughed with a wryly smile, "Are you so surprised to see me?"

The Heaven Goddess Zero said coldly, "Good! You are one and we are three. You can still laugh now but you won't be laughing in a short while time!"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa laughed softly as she looked keenly at the World Ruler Fu Xi, "Surely you are not thinking of asking your lord brother to bash me up? I have to admit that I am not so foolish as to fight him. However it will be shameful for him to beat an inferior like me?"

The Heaven Goddess Zero hummed coldly, "As long as we can get the lady of the Oracle Clan, it will be a great blow to the Great Lord Xuan Yuan so it doesn't matter what methods we use!"

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien added with a cold smile as she touched the hilt of her sword, "After all, you are as good as in our hands now!"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa shrugged her shoulders off with a soft alluring laughter as she looked at the World Ruler Fu Xi and Yi Ping, "Is this the way to treat me after all the help that I have given you?"

The World Ruler Fu Xi laughed aloud, "Indeed, indeed. Without your aid,

I would not have got him out of there."

Yi Ping was startled as he thought, "They are on the same side? I have thought that they are on opposing sides and she was constantly opposing the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien and the Heaven Goddess Zero..."

All of a sudden he groaned silently, "I am so wrong! This Alluring Goddess Theresa has calculated all her moves in advance to bait everyone up to this point. She had interrupted a tense situation so that an ugly fight will not break out. Come to think of this, everyone was following her lead up to this point..."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled as she looked at Yi Ping, "So you have finally figured it out?"

She turned to look at the Heaven Goddess Zero and the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien, "So you still want to fight it out with me? It seems that your lord brother is standing on my side!"

The Heaven Goddess Zero smiled weakly, "Since you are on our side now, I shall not fight with you today but I won't ever forget all the fights we have in the past!"

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien hummed coldly, "Either shall I!"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa looked at them intently and smiled wryly, "Since? Know this, I have been on your side from the very start. It is just that you did not know about it. It is a secret that is between your lord brother and I!"

The Heaven Goddess Zero and the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien were startled as they quickly looked at their lord brother for what little subtle expressions he had.

The World Ruler Fu Xi simply said, "It is the truth. If she did not put on such an act, she won't be able to infiltrate the Firmament Citadel."

The Heaven Goddess Zero asked, "So she is coming with us too?"

The World Ruler Fu Xi nodded with a grin, "That's right! So get along well!"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled warmly, "I am inclined to be generous and be forgiving. So let us get along well with each other. I will give you a good explanation later."

The Heaven Goddess Zero hummed unhappily but she soon composed herself to look at the Goddess Lessica, "She knows too much and who knows if she is really an undercover for the Great Lord Xuan Yuan. After all, she hailed from the Verdant Palace!"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa laughed softly, "This, you don't have to worry too much. Am I right, Goddess Lessica?"

The Goddess Lessica hastily gave a half-bow and said coolly, "Mistress, I did exactly as you have commanded and have brought the Great Lord Yi Ping to you."

The Heaven Goddess Zero and the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien were startled as they looked at each other. But they were not as startled as Yi Ping who reacted by asking, "You...the two of you are together?"

The Goddess Lessica lowered her glances and said quietly, "Forgive me my lord."

Yi Ping looked at her hesitatingly and sighed softly, "So that is the reason why you have asked me to pick you. So that is the plan..."

The Goddess Lessica replied with a soft melancholy, "That is exactly the plan of my mistress. It is of utmost importance that we get you out of the Verdant Palace immediately before it is too late."

Yi Ping asked curiously, "Before it is too late?"

The Goddess Lessica looked at the Alluring Goddess Theresa hesitatingly who nodded discreetly to her, "Yes, before it is too late even if it meant exposing our covers in the Verdant Palace and enraging the Great Lord Xuan Yuan. First of all, you may represent a shift in the balance between the Verdant Palace and the Firmament Citadel. Of course, the most important reason of all is that you have the Fantian Sovereign Sword which is the most sacred heritage artefact of the Oracle Clan. We must retrieve it at all costs."

Yi Ping smiled weakly as he touched the hilt of the Fantian Sovereign Sword, "But most unfortunately, this sword is now linked to me. There is no way for you to retrieve it unless I am dead."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled, "Oh really? Why don't you let me try?"

Yi Ping raised the Fantian Sovereign and thrust it into the ground, saying coldly to her. "If you want to but don't blame me for any bad consequences that will befall you!"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa laughed, "I won't."

All of a sudden she had picked the Fantian Sovereign and was appraising it with both her hands, "Excellent. It seems that the sword core of the Fantian Sovereign has not grown dimmer but stronger. Hmmm, why is that so?" As she muttered to herself, she peeked at Yi Ping.

Yi Ping was perplexed as he thought, "She is able to handle my sword?!"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled coolly, "Why are you looking at me like this? This Fantian Sovereign is originally from the Oracle Clan..."

All of a sudden the smiles on her face sunk as she looked at the Fantian Sovereign as she trembled lightly, "The sword core of this sword tells me that it has been in contact with the Heavenly Tears Sword. The Great Goddess Fantian is still alive? She is nearby?..."

She flashed a dangerous look at Yi Ping and her eyes had turned malevolently!

Yi Ping was startled by her malevolent look but before he could react, the Alluring Goddess Theresa gave a soft scream as she let off of the burning Fantian Sovereign as she gasped, "I have been rejected by the Fantian Sovereign!..."

Yi Ping quickly seized back the Fantian Sovereign and said quietly, "That is right. You have too much hatred in your heart and that is why the Fantian Sovereign has rejected you. It is a sword of righteousness, able to discern right and wrong. The same goes for the Heavenly Tears. Both

swords are forged in the burning cosmos from the very dawn of time."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa was startled as she muttered almost incoherently, "I have too much hatred in my heart? Is that the reason why the Heavenly Tears has rejected me and has chosen Fantian..."

Yi Ping said gently to the Goddess Lessica, "I don't blame you for what you have done. I am sure that there is little choice."

The Goddess Lessica nodded with bleary eyes, "Thank you..."

Yi Ping interrupted gently, "But I am also glad that you are able to get out of there. You are free now. Now it is time for me to leave as well."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa quickly said, "Wait a minute! You are coming with us!"

Yi Ping straightened himself to say calmly as he held his swords tightly, "I am afraid that it is not my intention either. I will fight my way out."

He looked at the World Ruler Fu Xi, the Alluring Goddess Theresa, the Heaven Goddess Zero and the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien. He was not afraid. In fact, he was wondering how strong they were and he was immediately spirited!

The Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled, "If you do then you won't find your way back again."

Yi Ping was startled and he asked quickly, "What do you mean?"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled mysteriously, "I have taken a look at your sword core earlier. It seems that you are not from around here but is from the Immortal Realm, am I right? If you want to return to the Immortal Realm then you need help and I may be the only one who can help you."

Yi Ping was startled that she knew so much even though she was not exactly right. The Immortal Realm that she had known was partitioned into Three Known Realms, the Immortal Realm, the Celestial Realm and the Mortal Realm. However, she was right that he was not from around here.

He remembered that he had told the Goddess Lessica where he was from so he was now looking at her. However the Goddess Lessica lowered her eyes as she trembled, "Great Lord Yi Ping, I swear that I didn't tell anyone, not even my mistress."

The Heaven Goddess Zero was startled as she asked curiously, "He is from the enemy camp? Really?"

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien was also startled as she stared at Yi Ping, "If he is from the Pangu Faction then he is the common enemy of all the Desolate Immortals then we mustn't let him live!"

The World Ruler Fu Xi grinned and said, "Does it matter? If he is a guest here then we shall give him the welcome that he wants. I appreciate fighters, no matter where they are from. What do you say, Great Lord Yi Ping? Join us and learn more about the Desolate Realm. Isn't that what you want from coming here?"

Yi Ping smiled weakly, "I want to go back to where I come from. That is what I really want."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled warmly, "No matter. Join us and I will show you the way back."

Yi Ping hesitated for a while before he asked slowly, "So what do you want from me?"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa folded her arms and laughed jovially, "We want to know more about you and where you are from. In return, I will send you back unconditionally."

Yi Ping asked perplexedly, "Is that all?"

Because he knew that it was not as simple as it looked!

The Alluring Goddess Theresa laughed, "So what do you think?"

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien hummed coldly, "You call this persuasion? It will be a miracle if he believes in your lies! I say, just give him an honorable death!"

The Heaven Goddess Zero seemed to sigh pitifully as she said coldly,

"Why all the talk? If he is so foolish and wants to die, let's grant him a quick death!"

The World Ruler Fu Xi said slowly as he shot deadly look at Yi Ping, "Know this, I will not stay my hand. I am actually looking forward for our fight!"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa looked at them unhappily, "If you not helping then can you stop messing up with my plans?"

Yi Ping shook his robe as he stepped forward, "I am willing to follow you to the Firmament Citadel but you have to guide me back to the Material Realm."

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien and the Heaven Goddess Zero were both startled as they had thought that Yi Ping would choose to fight with them.

The Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled, "Then let us be on my way now!"

Chapter 244: The Firmament Citadel

The Firmament Citadel like the Verdant Palace was a hanging citadel that lay at the outer reaches of the imposing circular Ancient Fortress.

Yi Ping found himself standing at the edge of the citadel walls and the winds were lashing furiously. It was not long before several auroras of wavering blue and green lights lit the skies above.

He was so in awe of the beautiful lights that he gasped, "It is so beautiful!"

The Heaven Goddess Zero looked at him coldly, "These are the northern lights. The northern lights are nothing compared to the warmth of the celestial sun that only shines in the Immortal Realm. You certainly know how to mock us!"

Even the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien was looking unhappily at Yi Ping and the World Ruler Fu Xi had paused in his tracks to look sternly at Yi Ping!

The Goddess Lessica and the Alluring Goddess Theresa had paused in their tracks to look curiously at Yi Ping and the Heaven Goddess Zero!

Yi Ping looked back at the Heaven Goddess Zero and said coolly, "Maybe I should get this right first. I have no idea what the celestial sun of the Immortal Realm looks like. I have never been there before. Also, the northern lights here are really beautiful to behold. I have meant no offense to anyone!"

The Heaven Goddess Zero said unhappily, "But you are from the Immortal Realm!"

Yi Ping smiled weakly as he sighed again, "I have already explained that the Immortal Realm that you have known had been split into the Three Known Realms..."

The Heaven Goddess Zero hummed coldly, "I am not so foolish to believe your nonsense!"

Again Yi Ping heaved another sigh, "I give up. Believe it or not, it is none of my business..."

All of a sudden he paused in his tracks as he thought, "Why did the Great God Pangu sunders the Immortal Realm into three? We have the Immortal Realm, the Celestial Realm and the Mortal Realm now. Surely it is not just to identify the potential practitioners?"

All of a sudden an insight struck him as a thought dawned upon him, "Don't tell me that it is to protect the Immortal Realm from the Desolate Immortals? If war breaks out then at the very least, the lower denizens will be safe..."

Very little was known about the Immortal Realm by the celestial practitioners in the Celestial Realm. That was a mystery even to the ancient celestials; they were only hinted of the existence of a higher realm by the appearance of the Stellar Sanctuary.

Even the real immortals that were in the Celestial Realm such as the Goddess Isa, the Goddess Celestial Alice and the Goddess Aiel did not reveal that they were immortal practitioners from the Immortal Realm. All they could reveal about the Immortal Realm was that it was unspeakable to reveal the existence of the Immortal Realm!

Yi Ping thought, "It seems that everything leads to the Immortal Realm. I wonder what is in the Immortal Realm and what it really looks like?"

His curiosity was suddenly piqued by the Immortal Realm that he had never seen!

The only thing that he had known about the Immortal Realm was that it was partitioned into Seven Heavens and that the higher heavens were inaccessible to the less attain immortals. Even though the Celestial Realm was also quite inaccessible but at the very least, it still gave the impression that it was linked by lofty mountains and seas of clouds.

The Goddess Celestial Alice had also hinted to him that it was entire possible for celestial practitioners to travel to the Immortal Realm via the great mountains of the Celestial Realm that lay beyond its borders. Whether any celestial practitioners had actually reached the Immortal Realm from there, there was no mentioning by the Goddess Celestial Alice. Her only hint was that that border was highly dangerous and it was

inhabited by the Great Beasts.

All of a sudden the World Ruler Fu Xi stopped in front of a pavilion that was situated to a golden bridge that led to an overhanging monstrous citadel.

He turned around and said, "This is my domain already. We can talk at ease now."

Yi Ping hesitated for a while. It was because he was aware that there were hundreds of Desolate Immortals lurking in the shadows even though none were in visible sight. And out of these hundreds of Desolate Immortals, a dozen of them had been following them ever since they had left the Verdant Palace.

The World Ruler Fu Xi said coolly, "I know what you are thinking. They are my followers."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled, "You have better sent some of them to my Oracle Palace to protect me. It won't be too long before the Great Lord Xuan Yuan attacks my domain!"

The World Ruler Fu Xi smiled wryly, "You should have already thought of that. Moreover, we have a thousand years of holy armistices. Anyone that breaks this sacred armistice will invite punitive actions by all the others."

The Heaven Goddess Zero was getting impatient as she pointed at Yi Ping, "Alright, tell us everything that you know. How did you come from the Immortal Realm?"

Yi Ping looked at her petite face and smiled weakly, "I will surely tell you all that I know but not if you keep talking to me in this manner."

Then he looked at the Alluring Goddess Theresa to say, "After all, I need her help to return to where I am from."

As he turned to hint to the Alluring Goddess Theresa, he noticed that the Goddess Lessica and the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien were looking at him with interest. The Alluring Goddess Theresa had already seated herself as she smiled alluringly, "I will surely be able to send you back. Tell us where you got your sword and how did you come to be here?"

Yi Ping calmly sat down as he looked at the heavens above with a heavy sigh, "That is a long story. I have actually come from the lowest realm of the Three Known Realms. This realm is what we call the Mortal Realm or the Material Realm. I am just an ordinary mortal. But one day, I am able to traverse from the Mortal Realm to the Celestial Realm..."

He began to describe the appearance of the Stellar Sanctuary and how it held the key to the Immortal Realm. So he entered and had found the Fantian Sovereign within the Stellar Sanctuary. After storming to the very top of the Stellar Sanctuary, he found his soul being ripped through the void and the next thing he knew, he had found himself in this place.

For the very first time the World Ruler Fu Xi began to look at him intently and said solemnly, "The Stellar Sanctuary has been unleashed upon the Immortal Realm? Impossible!..."

Even the Alluring Goddess Theresa had turned ashen as she muttered, "Now it makes sense. Assuming that what he says is true, the Immortal Realm has indeed splintered into three realms now. If the Stellar Sanctuary is to materialized in the Immortal Realm then it will be known to us through the Ancient Fortress for the two are sister artefacts from the Great Cosmos Beyond."

Yi Ping was surprised as he thought, "They did not know that the Immortal Realm has been partitioned into three realms?"

The World Ruler Fu Xi nodded as he looked at Yi Ping intently, "The Stellar Sanctuary possesses many secrets from the Great Beyond. Among the many secrets, is the elusive Universal Creation Force."

The Heaven Goddess Zero nodded as she looked at Yi Ping, "Therefore it also makes sense that he is able to traverse the cosmos and arrive here."

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien touched her lips and muttered, "Hmmm, interesting...The Stellar Sanctuary, the Universal Creation Force, the Fantian Sovereign..."

Yi Ping quickly said, "That is exactly what has happened to me after I have reached the top of the Stellar Sanctuary."

The usual smiling countenance of the Alluring Goddess Theresa gave way to a startled solemn expression as she looked at the World Ruler Fu Xi as she gasped, "Impossible! He has actually scaled all the way to the top of the Stellar Sanctuary?!"

Even the World Ruler Fu Xi was solemn as he appeared to ponder deeply.

Yi Ping turned to say to the Alluring Goddess Theresa, "So now, do what you have promised me and send me back to where I have come from."

The Goddess Lessica stared blankly at Yi Ping, "My lord, you have really overcome the legendary trials of the Stellar Sanctuary? Is that true? Really?"

Yi Ping turned to say to the Goddess Lessica, "I can't say for sure but I have indeed scaled to the top of the 100th floor of the Stellar Sanctuary and have talked to the guardian of the Stellar Sanctuary."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa said coldly, "Not only you have my clan heritage artefact sword the Fantian Sovereign but you have also overcome the trials of the Stellar Sanctuary..."

The World Ruler Fantian interrupted with a cold smirk, "Back then I did not think that Pangu was serious when he wanted to partition the Immortal Realm into three realms to spare it from our wrath. So he has really given up his immortal body to accomplish it. To think that I am still waiting for our immortal fight."

The Heaven Goddess Zero shrugged her shoulders as she looked at Yi Ping before she smiled to the World Ruler Fu Xi, "Lord Brother, if the Great Lord Pangu is around I don't think you will be able to overcome him. Or else we won't be banished to the outer world."

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien smiled. "My sister, we are caught unaware the last time. Moreover this won't be the same as the last time. Even if Pangu is a Tenth Positioning Immortal, he won't be able to fight off so many Ninth Positioning Immortals at the same time. After all the only Ninth Positioning Immortals that we have the last time was the Great Lord Xuan Yuan and the World Ruler Fu Xi."

Yi Ping said solemnly, "I have already revealed to you what I have already known. So please send me back now!"

The World Ruler Fu Xi ignored Yi Ping and said to the Alluring Goddess Theresa, "What do you think of him? Can you see through him?"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa replied coolly as she stared piercingly at Yi Ping as though she could see through t, "He is indeed different and is not of our race. He has no golden skeleton within him yet he is as strong as us. What is this reason?"

The World Ruler Fu Xi nodded and said, "He is able to hide the flow of his aura from most but his animus is as strong as any of us. This empower doesn't come from his skeleton but through the strengthening of his vital energies within him."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa said, "With a strong animus aura, naturally our vital energies will be manifold and strengthened accordingly. Therefore we meditate to strengthen our animus. Only then will our immortal positioning increase in rank accordingly!"

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien nodded and gave Yi Ping a curious look, "That's right. But it seems that this Great Lord Yi Ping here is different from us. His strengthening technique seems to be on his vital energies first before his animus. This is so interesting. Why is that so?"

The Heaven Goddess Zero smiled, "Maybe this is a new immortal practice?"

The World Ruler Fu Xi said nonchalantly, "It is nevertheless a weaker immortal practice that makes no sense."

Yi Ping could feel a slight tug as the Goddess Lessica whispered all of a sudden, "Be careful..."

At the same time Yi Ping could feel the malevolent airs that were from the World Ruler Fu Xi, the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien, Alluring Goddess Theresa and the Heaven Goddess Zero!

All of a sudden the Alluring Goddess Theresa had raised her hand to strike at Yi Ping, unleashing a flurry of furious strikes!

The Alluring Goddess Theresa said coldly to the Goddess Lessica as she forced her to scurry away from Yi Ping, "Get out of my way if you don't want to be in harm way!"

The Goddess Lessica gasped panicky, "Mistress, no please..."

Yi Ping shouted to her, "I will be alright. Stay back!" as he quickly made a hasty counter with his palms as thunderous windforce erupted all around them!

He was slightly startled by the martial strength of the Alluring Goddess Theresa when he failed to halt her advances. He said angrily, "Why are you attacking me? You promise to send me back to the Immortal Realm!"

Before he could extract an answer from her, the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien had raised her twin crescent black blades like whipping black dragons and had were aiming at his vulnerable flank!

This caused Yi Ping to raise his Celestial Alice to deflect her off but at the same time, the Heaven Goddess Zero had also raised her Crescent Heaven Blade as a wall of slashing sword energies erupted from the ground. This forced him to take a step backward as he raised the Sovereign Sword with his other hand in an upward arc to dissipate the approaching sword energies!

The World Ruler Fu Xi had a burst of dark animus that had burst around him and in the next instant he had flashed next to Yi Ping as he raised his dark sword to slash several times behind him!

Yi Ping received a slash on his back that immediately sent him flying backward and at the same time the Alluring Goddess Theresa had flashed immediately next to him as she raised her fingers to stab at his eyes!

Yi Ping cursed softly as he gave a great shout that immediately empowered his martial strength as he invoked the Golden Invincible Force, causing seven golden discs to hover around him. This immediately caused the Alluring Goddess Theresa to stagger back as she smiled, "Your reaction is pretty fast. To think that you are able to muster your internal energy in such a short time. You are definitely not a Seventh Rank Immortal or an Eight Rank Immortal!"

Now Yi Ping was particular upset with this Alluring Goddess Theresa as he disliked cunning or dishonorable people. She had promised to send him back yet she had gone back on her words. So he thought angrily, "I am preserving my new technique for the Great Lord Xuan Yuan but it seems that the four of you have lured me into a trap today to end my life. I am not going to hold back any longer even if I know that there are a hundred foes still waiting in the shadows!"

So he immediately merged the Celestial Alice and the Fantian Sovereign and at the same time the merging sword formed a beam of white sword energies that flew toward the Alluring Goddess Theresa!

The Celestial Alice and the Fantian Sovereign had merged into the Heaven Defying Sword now!

He thought, "This is impossible for her to dodge my Heaven Defying sword energies at this range..."

But he was wrong!

Not only the Alluring Goddess Theresa had effortlessly dodged the sword energies bursts like a phantom, she was smiling and laughing jovially. "So you are angry now? Don't be because if you do, you are going to be dead pretty soon!"

She was not wrong because the Heaven Goddess Zero, the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien and the World Ruler Fu Xi were now attacking him left and right; their barrage of attacks were like a relentless storm that were shaking the vicinity with their martial energies and forces!

Their attacks were all too powerful and it took Yi Ping all his efforts to fend them off before he dissipated all seven of his golden hover discs to the tips of his sword. He raised his voice to say coldly, "If I am not wrong then this technique of mine will surely turn the tide of this battle. If you are wise, you have better turn back with your tail!"

Immediately there was a brilliant flare of white light as he mustered the sword energies of his Thousand Memories Swords and the ground beneath him was pelleted with deadly sword energies!

The World Ruler Fu Xi shouted as he raised his sword to explode the ground, "Be careful!"

The Heaven Goddess Zero smiled coldly, "I am waiting for this. If he is not strong then it will be too boring!"

Yi Ping did not reply her. It was because he had already formed a new technique in his mind. The power of this technique that he was going to execute next would be so powerful beyond measure that it was unthinkable to him. But yet, he was now forced to use it because he was forced to face four of the most powerful Desolate Immortals in the Desolate Realm!

He was now going to merge the Thousand Memories Swords with the Golden Invincible Force. Previously he was not able to use the Thousand Memories Sword and the Golden Invincible Force at the same time. But during the duel with the Great Lord Xuan Yuan, he had discovered that he may have the sufficient strength to maintain at least one of these powerful forces through the Celestial Alice and his newly gained Universal Creation Force for just a while. And this just a while was sufficient for him to think that it was entirely to use the martial energies of the Golden Invincible Force to enhance the Thousand Memories Sword!

If the Thousand Memories Sword could be enhanced into the Heaven Defying Sword Energies through his Heaven Defying Sword then he could also enhanced the energies of his Golden Invincible Force and used it to enhance his Heaven Defying Sword!

This was the technique that he had discovered when he had placed the Golden Invincible Force on the tip of his Heaven Defying Sword when he had fought against the Great Lord Xuan Yuan. If three of the Golden Invincible Force could empower his sword energies by so much, what if he could absorb all the Golden Invincible Force into the Heaven Defying Sword instead of simply enhancing it by the tip?

Because he had not yet given a name to this new technique, so he decided to name it Technique X first!

All of a sudden, the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien shouted to the rest, "Now!"

Upon her incitation the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien, the World Ruler Fu Xi, the Heaven Goddess Zero and the Alluring Goddess Theresa had all displayed their epitome techniques!

The Goddess Lessica shuddered with anxiety as the five fighters began to display their techniques at the same time. She knew that between life and death, timing was extremely crucial. Moreover the techniques that were in use were all terrifying to beholden!

A brilliant explosive flare exploded thunderously as Yi Ping was struck and flung back into the pavilion walls, crashing through to it while his other opponents were also swept aside!

So great was the blows that were received by Yi Ping that he was yelling in pain and that the crashing of his bones were thunderous!

The Goddess Lessica gasped panicky as she knew that the fight had been decisive and that Yi Ping had lost!

The World Ruler Fu Xi, the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien, the Alluring Goddess Theresa and the Heaven Goddess Zero had already recovered and they were already readying their next attacks on Yi Ping!

The Goddess Lessica cried out, "Please stop! You will kill him!..."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa was the first to flash next to the fallen Yi Ping as she smiled most enchantingly, "That is the whole point, isn't it?"

She did not hesitate at all as she threw a powerful punch onto the semiconscious Yi Ping; it was so powerful that the ground underneath Yi Ping exploded thunderously and debris flew all over!

All of a sudden the Alluring Goddess Theresa was flung aside by a strike from the semi-conscious Yi Ping!

The Heaven Goddess Zero gasped as she stared at Yi Ping, "So the legend is true after all!"

Yi Ping coughed softly as he stood on his ground again. Instead of feeling weary and drained of strength, he could feel as good as new again. It was as though his bones did not crack at all from the earlier assault!

That he was still wobbly was his only tell-tale sign of the earlier battle!

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien looked intently at Yi Ping and said coldly, "So this is the Omnipotent Creation Armor."

The World Ruler Fu Xi heaved a soft sigh, "He has actually unraveled the greatest secret of the Stellar Sanctuary. This is something that all the Desolate Immortals have been coveting since the beginning..."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa nodded as she raised her eyes, "Indeed. Even though the Oracle Clan possessed the Stellar Sanctuary in the past but none of us had succeeded in obtaining the greatest secret of the Stellar Sanctuary which is the Omnipotent Creation Armor. To think that we have all managed to witness the Omnipotent Creation Armor today!"

Yi Ping was startled by their words and when he looked at himself, he was even more startled that he was donned in shining blue plate armor that were adorned with three stellar blue orbs!

He muttered out, "Isn't this the Divine Armor of the Great God Pangu? Why am I wearing it? Isn't this the skeleton remains of the Great God Pangu?"

That was exactly what he could remember from the Great Desolate Goddess Nuwa!

The Alluring Goddess Theresa had clearly overheard him as she hummed aloud, "Outrageous! Who was the one that told you that? There is no mistaken that this is none other than the Omnipotent Creation Armor!"

The Heaven Goddess Zero was trembling slightly as she muttered, "He has the Omnipotent Creation Armor...we can win him?"

At this moment Yi Ping saw that more than a hundred Desolate Immortals had already crept from their hiding places and were walking toward him! All of these Desolate Immortals were all Seventh Ranking Immortals!

Yi Ping gritted his teeth and said coldly, "You can all fight me at the same time. I am not afraid to face death!"

Chapter 245: The Omnipotent Creation Armor

The World Ruler Fu Xi said coolly, "These are my Blackwinds Legion and they are also some of the finest fighters of the Firmament Citadel."

Indeed, the hundred or so Desolate Immortals that were approaching were all garbed in black robes and black cloaks!

Yi Ping knew that the World Ruler Fu Xi was not lying. Indeed they were no ordinary exponents for it was definitely not an easy feat to conceal in such a large number!

The reason Yi Ping was able to detect their invisible presence because he had been taught the Listening Rhythm by Xian'Er and that his present martial accomplishment was all too profound; he could even hear a needle dropping from a mile away!

Not even the World Ruler Fu Xi and the Alluring Goddess Theresa were able to approach him quietly without him knowing!

Yi Ping said softly as he grasped tightly the Heaven Defying Sword, "C'mon. What are we waiting for?"

The World Ruler Fu Xi appeared to be patient as he looked at the Alluring Goddess Theresa, "What do you say?"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa groaned softly, "Why are you asking me? You are the one of the two most powerful great lords in this realm and you are asking me my opinion?"

The World Ruler Fu Xi said matter of fact, "You are the number one exponent of the Desolate Immortals. Naturally I will need to ask you for your opinion."

The Heaven Goddess Zero hummed coldly, "Naturally our Lord Brother is the number one exponent in the entire realm!"

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien nodded, "It is just a matter of time before we are able to surpass her!"

The World Ruler Fu Xi laughed aloud as he took a broad stride forward, "Other than the Great Goddess Fantian, I say that the Alluring Goddess Theresa is the number one fighter in the realm. She may be able to fool you but I can tell she is concealing her true strength. All the great lords of the realm that are added together are not able to touch her, not even the slightest bit!"

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien looked curiously at the World Ruler Fu Xi, "Lord Brother, you never joke. Are you serious?"

The World Ruler Fu Xi replied, "Do I look like I am not serious?"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa laughed alluringly, "I am really too flattered!"

Yi Ping stared at the Alluring Goddess Theresa and thought, "She is the number one exponent?!"

All of a sudden he remembered what the Goddess Lessica had said to him previously; Other than the Great Goddess Fantian, the Alluring Goddess Theresa was actually the number one super exponent in the entire Desolate Realm!

He had actually found it hard to believe!

But now that he observed closely again, it seemed that out of the four of them, the Alluring Goddess Theresa had taken far less damage from their earlier clash!

Wrong!

She had not even taken a single scratch!

What he had observed was merely the dust and debris that had landed on her!

Somehow, she had supernaturally evaded his most powerful technique and was even making counter attacks on her own!

Yi Ping quickly regained his composure as he said coldly, "I am asking you again. Why did you break your promise and why did you attack me!"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled wryly, "If we don't attack you then

we will never know if you are telling the truth, am I right? If we don't attack you then we won't ever know if you have the Omnipotent Creation Armor, am I right? The Stellar Sanctuary is the most sacred heritage artefact of the Oracle Clan. It was taken away by Fantian."

She sighed softly, "To think that you have actually obtained the most sacred secret of the Stellar Sanctuary that we have been trying to unravel for eons..."

She looked piercingly at Yi Ping, "So what do we want from you? Or rather, what do I want from you? I want to duel with you."

This time round Yi Ping was startled as he blinked his eyes, "You want to duel with me?..."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa replied with a faint smile, "Are you surprise? Are you expecting us to attack you in a group?"

Yi Ping nodded slightly. Indeed he was expecting it to be so.

She continued with a wry smile as she lifted her head, "I have a simple reason to do so. The Omnipotent Creation Armor belongs to the Oracle Clan. I have no reasons to let the others have it first, am I right? Moreover, if I can't beat you then no one else is able to then!"

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien and the Heaven Goddess Zero immediately took offense as they said angrily at the same time, "Why you, you are too insolence!..."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa laughed it off, "Indeed I am. So what are going to do with me?"

She took a glance at the World Ruler Fu Xi before saying, "So what do you think?"

The World Ruler Fu Xi smiled coolly, "That is exactly why I have asked for your opinion first. Do what you want and I won't interfere."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa laughed alluringly, "That is agreed then."

She turned to look at Yi Ping and said, "Great Lord Yi Ping, do you agree to duel with me?"

Yi Ping bowed with his hands, "I agree!"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa interrupted sharply, "Wait! Don't be too hasty yet. If I win then you have to surrender the Omnipotent Creation Armor to me..."

Yi Ping thought, "If I can't win then my fate will be my own demise. Everything that I have got will be taken away from me anyway."

So he quickly said, "Naturally!"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa hummed coldly, "Don't be too hasty to say so first. If you win then I will humble myself in front of you!"

Yi Ping was angry, "That is all? You have broken your pledge and all you need to do is to humble yourself in front of me? Send me back..."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled, "Of course not. Not only will I send you back but you can do anything to me."

She emphasized, "Anything literally. Even if you want to take me for yourself."

Yi Ping was startled and he smiled weakly, "That won't be necessary. Just remember what you have promised. Surely you don't want to lose your honor in front of so many others!"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled, "I don't care for honor but I will adhere to our agreement. By the Eternal Cosmos, I swear or else I will be dematerialized into nothingness and will never be able to reincarnate. Are you happy now?"

Yi Ping was assured and he said quietly, "This need not be a duel to the death."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa answered as her malevolent air suddenly increased by a great manifold, "Even then I will not be lenient upon you. So you have better not be too."

The World Ruler Fu Xi commanded, "Everyone step back!"

The Heaven Goddess Zero commented, "She really thinks she can defeat him alone. He has the Omnipotent Creation Armor. This is madness! I will really like to see her being humiliated!"

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien said coolly as she walked away, "This is a good chance for us to identify his possible weakness. The Alluring Goddess Theresa is only doing us a favor. Let's take this opportunity to rest and observe at the same time."

The Heaven Goddess Zero nodded as she walked away, "So shall it be then!"

The Goddess Lessica said to the Alluring Goddess Theresa, "Mistress, be careful!"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa laughed as she winked at the Goddess Lessica, "It seems that you are more anxious for this Great Lord Yi Ping. For a moment, I have thought that you are actually on his side than on my side."

The Goddess Lessica protested shyly, "I really dare not. After all, I have brought him to you exactly as you have instructed..."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa interrupted amicably as she waved her aside, "Stand aside. This is my battle."

All of a sudden there was a red sigil that flashed on her forehead and at the same time her purple eyes were radiating three golden rings from within as the surrounding air exploded thunderously!

Yi Ping was startled at the power of her Ninth Positioning level. He did not dare to be careless as he opened his Third Eye as his golden sigil flashed on his forehead to ward off the disturbing energy waves.

The others were shocked at the power display of the Alluring Goddess Theresa as they took several steps back!

Even the World Ruler Fu Xi was overheard murmuring, "So this is the true strength of the Alluring Goddess Theresa!"

A red sword with a ring on its hilt had suddenly flashed in front of the Alluring Goddess Theresa as she took it and immediately began to swing it. She smiled wryly, "This is my Deadly Melody Divine Sword. Surely you

don't expect me to fight you with my bare fists? This will be too unfair, am I right?"

Yi Ping was struck by the power that was within her divine sword. He thought, "Even though this sword is only a metre long and isn't as long as my sword but the power of her sword isn't beneath mine. The strength of her sword seems to be centered on the length of one third of her blade and the ring at the end seems to be able to re-orient the balance immediately. Even if she has missed me, she will be able to retaliate immediately with her full power again. I wonder what is the sanctorum power of her sword?..."

Just by seeing her handling her sword, Yi Ping was able to know how deadly her sword was and he dared not be careless!

He began to raise the Heaven Defying Sword up in a defensive posture. If he was not wrong then this Alluring Goddess Theresa possessed an uncanny ability to sense the minute changes in aura like the Ascension Goddess Ye Yin and the Great Goddess Fantian Xian'Er. That was the only explanation why she was able to evade all his moves!

All of a sudden the Alluring Goddess Theresa disappeared from where she was standing and her voice could be heard in the flurrying winds, "Know this. I am the Great Prophetess now. When Fantian had betrayed the clan she had already chosen to give up her lineage..."

All the onlookers were startled, including the World Ruler Fu Xi. It was because the Alluring Goddess Theresa was moving so fast that she was nowhere to be seen!

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien was so startled that she blurt out, "I can't see her at all. This is...impossible!...If she has this startling ability, why didn't she uses this earlier..."

The Heaven Goddess Zero had turned ashen as she said, "We are all Ninth Immortal Positioning and yet she can come and go as she pleases. Now I know the reason for the death of the Great Lord Aloma..."

Yi Ping was extending his senses beyond his eyes as he pondered intently into his surroundings, "In which direction will she come at me?"

All of a sudden the Alluring Goddess Theresa had made her move and had appeared right in front of Yi Ping!

There several brilliant flares as Yi Ping deflected her attacks and as Yi Ping raised his sword, there was a tremendous windforce that swept the Alluring Goddess Theresa upward!

Yi Ping had only used his a little of his martial strength and was surprised by his own strength!

The Alluring Goddess Theresa had landed immediately and was already charging at him with a mighty streak of cloud that was behind her!

As Yi Ping braced himself for the attack, he was perplexed as he thought. "My sword is longer than her. If she charges headlong into me then I have the first strike..."

Suddenly another thought struck him, "If she manages to evade my first strike then her shorter sword would have the upper advantage. So that is her stratagem!..."

To his utter surprise, the Alluring Goddess Theresa stopped dead in her tracks, right in front of his Heaven Defying Sword and did not proceed further!

The malevolent air around seemed to have vanished and time seemed to have frozen in place.

Yi Ping asked, "Why didn't you continue to attack?"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa asked in return, "And why didn't you then?"

Yi Ping smiled weakly, "Since you didn't press on with your attack, why should I?"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa quickly danced back as she smiled wryly, "That is because I am not confident and I dare not take my chance! But why didn't you?"

Yi Ping nodded as he took a step forward, "You are obviously waiting for me to attack first to retaliate against me..." Suddenly the Alluring Goddess Theresa raised her beaming sword as dazzling sword energies flew toward Yi Ping like speeding meteor. She cried out, "Now!..."

She had taken advantage of the momentary lapse in his concentration and had launched a furious surprise attack!

Altogether there were twenty beaming sword energies!

All the other onlookers were startled and were astonished!

It was because even for immortal experts like the World Ruler Fu Xi, the Heaven Goddess Zero and the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien, they were only capable of generating only between nine to twelve sword energy bursts. Moreover, the Alluring Goddess Theresa had generated these sword energy bursts in such a short notice!

Even Yi Ping was caught unprepared by these sword energy bursts that were flying at him at point blank!

He raised his sword and deflected twelve sword energy bursts that exploded thunderously like raining shells!

But unfortunately, he was still struck by eight of the sword energy bursts that were like piercing daggers that imploded thunderously on him in a ring of explosive burst!

But to his utter surprise, the eight sword energy bursts dissipated harmlessly off him after imploding into a circular burst of energy!

Even the Alluring Goddess Theresa was startled as she stared at him with shock as she muttered, "This is impossible..."

Impossible because he had actually deflected twelve of her sword bursts at point blank and at such a quick time. His reaction time must have been too insane in order to do it!

Impossible again because she had just generated her most powerful martial force, the Life Force Intricate Force!

She smiled weakly, "That is because you have the Omnipotent Creation Armor or else surely I will be the victor!"

Yi Ping replied coolly, "You can still try. Your divine sword has the strength to injure me but you can forget about using your sword energies on me."

At the same time he was thinking, "Alas, it is astonishing that the Omnipotent Creation Armor is able to absorb these killing sword energies so effortlessly. This makes my fight much easier now..."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa pursed her lips as she smiled weakly before she lowered her sword before saying, "I have lost! Not only have I lost, I have lost so terribly!"

Yi Ping was startled. He did not expect the haughty Alluring Goddess Theresa to admit defeat so soon. He thought, "Is this yet another ruse of hers?"

To everyone surprise, the Alluring Goddess Theresa had suddenly fell upon her knees as she humbled herself to say deferentially, "I admit defeat. You are the one. Even if the Great God Pangu is right here today, I won't give him the least face. It is because he is not the one. Your skills far surpass all the other immortals. I bow willingly to you and I am yours to command. By the Eternal Cosmos, my spirit and body are yours. My lord, please give me your first command."

Yi Ping was so stunned by her words that he began to blink his eyes, "You...this is only a match..."

The World Ruler Fu Xi was stunned, "Theresa, what is this?"

Even the Heaven Goddess Zero and the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien could not believe what they were hearing as they looked at each other...

The Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled wryly, "I am not his match therefore I am willing to follow him! If you want to be his foe then you have to get past me even if there are a hundred of you here!"

Yi Ping quickly said to her, "Please rise first. It is not worthwhile to lose your life for me. You don't have to follow me. I just want you to help me to get back to the Celestial Realm..."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa said melancholy as she rose with her

eyes lowered, "I can get you back but I am afraid that I have to disobey your other two commands. I am willing to lay down my life for you and no matter how many times you may refuse me, I will still follow you wherever you go!"

The Goddess Lessica moved next to the Alluring Goddess Theresa as she lit a smile before bowing gently, "My respects to the Great Lord Yi Ping! I am willing to follow you as well!"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa lifted her eyes to look at the other desolate immortals before she lit a slow wry smile, "I am afraid that whoever wants to fight the Great Lord Yi Ping has to fight me first!"

The World Ruler Fu Xi was groaning softly as he gripped his sword before he said slowly, "Surely you are not thinking of fighting all of us at the same time? That will be too foolish."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa replied with a soft smile, "Yes indeed that is my intention."

The Heaven Goddess Zero composed herself to say coldly, "You are too crafty! Surely you are not thinking of possessing the Omnipotent Creation Armor for yourself?!"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled, "That is impossible. The Omnipotent Creation Armor only acknowledges the chosen master and that master is none other than this Great Lord Yi Ping. Even if you can defeat him, the Omnipotent Creation Armor will return to the Stellar Sanctuary. If you want the Omnipotent Creation Armor then you have to face the trials of the Stellar Sanctuary. I am afraid that you will be dead halfway through it however."

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien laughed softly as she stepped forward, "The more powerful we are, the stronger the challenges of the Stellar Sanctuary that it will be. Not only will our recovery be limited in the Stellar Sanctuary but we will also be like mortals in there. Of course we know all that. Countless Desolate Immortals had sacrificed themselves in the past. There is even a saying. If you want to send a hatred foe to his death then let him enter the Stellar Sanctuary. All these things of course

we know all that."

All of a sudden she bowed on one knee as she smiled at Yi Ping, "Don't misunderstood! We are not fighting you for real! We really want to know if you are the one that we have all been waiting for. The one and only one that we are looking for! We have suspected that you have possessed the Omnipotent Creation Armor. Pardon us. This is the only way we can know..."

Yi Ping interrupted, "I am not the one you are waiting for. I am myself."

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien smiled as she replied nonchalantly, "Yes you are. You are the Universal Ruler that we have all been waiting all this while."

Yi Ping asked, "The Universal Ruler?"

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien waved her hands to the rest of the Desolate Immortals, "How insolent. Quickly put away your arms. Can't you see that the Universal Ruler is already here among us?"

She paused briefly before she smiled at Yi Ping, "Moreover don't forget that my Lord Brother has already betrothed my sister and I to the Universal Ruler Yi Ping already!"

All the other Desolate Immortals were startled as they looked in the direction of the World Ruler Fu Xi...

The World Ruler Fu Xi sighed softly as he drummed his chest with his right hand to salute to Yi Ping, "Although I am unwilling to submit to anyone but this time I am totally convinced. I must admit that Theresa's skills are above us and today is really an eye-opening for all of us. And your skills are above that of Theresa. If we were to fight, the outcome will be hard to predict. Therefore I will accept you as my superior and swear my allegiance to you in the name of the Eternal Cosmos. Isn't this a better solution?"

No sooner had the World Ruler Fu Xi pay his homage, all the Desolate Immortals were all kneeling on the ground as they shouted in unison, "Our most humble respects to the Universal Ruler!"

Yi Ping was startled. He had not expected the World Ruler Fu Xi and all the other Desolate Immortals to submit without a second thought. All of a sudden he was fond of the World Ruler Fu Xi and he bowed quickly in return, "Not at all. I am just a stranger in this place. I have no desire to lord over anyone at all!"

The Heaven Goddess Zero was trembling as she looked longingly at Yi Ping, "My humble respects to the Universal Ruler Yi Ping, I am willing to follow you to the ends of the eternal reaches and to the most forbidden places of the heavens!"

Yi Ping smiled weakly. This expression was something that he was most afraid of. So he quickly said, "There is no need for this. Don't get me wrong. I am not despising you. It is because I have no wish to be your lord. Moreover I am trying to get back to where I have come from too."

The Heaven Goddess Zero bit her lips as she said melancholy, "No matter what you have said, I have already made up my mind to follow you. It is our tradition to submit to the superior. Moreover you are the Universal Ruler. All Desolate Immortals have to bow before you sooner or later!"

Yi Ping smiled weakly at her. But he was also glad he had just avoided a deadly battle.

He quickly composed himself to turn to the Alluring Goddess Theresa, asking her. "How do I return to the Stellar Sanctuary? That is where I have last come from."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled, "Easy. All you need to do now is to will yourself back. After all, you are now one with the the Omnipotent Creation Armor now."

Yi Ping said weakly as he recalled what the Goddess of Mercy had said to him earlier, "I have already tried but I can't..."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa nodded as she pondered, "During my duel with you, I have noticed that for some reason you are unable to display your full strength. That may be the reason why."

Yi Ping sighed softly as he smiled weakly, "For some reason I can only muster two third of my strength. I suspect that is because my physical body isn't here."

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien asked perplexingly, "Your physical body isn't here? Then what are you?"

Yi Ping found it hard to explain that he had materialized here just like this and he was also bewildered when that happened. Just as he was trying to find words to explain it, the Alluring Goddess Theresa said to him, "You are not of the Seventh Immortal Positioning. Definitely not. Or you won't be able to withstand our attacks."

She paused to look curiously at him, "You are also not of the Ninth Immortal Positioning. Because no one of the Ninth Immortal Positioning are able to materialize themselves. You have already attained the Tenth Immortal Positioning?"

When the Alluring Goddess Theresa had mentioned the Tenth Immortal Positioning, the World Ruler Fu Xi, the Heaven Goddess Zero and the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien were all looking at Yi Ping with startled expressions. It was obvious what they were all thinking!

Yi Ping saw their subtle expressions and said quietly, "Yes, I have attained the Tenth Immortal Positioning."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa clapped her hands as she smiled, "In this case then I can get you back to the Stellar Sanctuary."

Yi Ping was moved as he said excitingly, "Really?"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa nodded as she looked at the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien and the Heaven Goddess Zero, "Yes but you have to borrow some ninth positioning negative nuclear energies from them first. I am afraid that with my strength alone, it is insufficient to do so. Losing a thousand year of attainment is too much for me alone and the risk is high."

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien and the Heaven Goddess Zero said at the same time without any hesitation, "I am willing to sacrifice my

attainment to aid the Universal Ruler!"

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien looked at the Heaven Goddess Zero who in turn was also looking back at her. She muttered, "Sister, have you considered already? You will lose your hard gained attainment!"

The Heaven Goddess Zero smiled wryly, "I don't mind losing three hundred or even five hundred years of attainment if I can aid the Universal Ruler. But sister, you have almost reached the middle tier of the Ninth Positioning level. Is it worth it for you?"

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien smiled wryly as she blinked at Yi Ping, "I have got my eyes on a higher target now."

When Yi Ping heard her, he began to sigh softly. It was because he was most afraid of this happening. Yet he knew that he could not refuse them because he badly wants to return to the Stellar Sanctuary. If he stays too long in this place then he could never return to his real physical body again.

The Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled as she whispered delicately, "If you want to go back then you have to assume the mantle of the Universal Ruler and be our lord. You don't have to feel guilty. As a highly attain immortal, you should follow the course of destiny and not judge by your own morality or else it would be detrimental to your attainment."

Yi Ping muttered, "To follow the course of destiny...and to assume the mantle of the Universal Ruler..."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa nodded and said, "The ten thousand years of wait is almost over. A great immortal war will soon resume. Only if you are the Universal Ruler can the immortal war be averted or at the very least you have the odds in the outcome. We are your only possible allies in the upcoming war of the immortals."

Yi Ping looked at all the Desolate Immortals that were presented as he muttered slowly, "Allies..."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa giggled, "That is right. Allies!"

Yi Ping nodded as he said firmly, "Since that is the case, I accept."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled as she greeted, "My humble respects to the Universal Ruler then!"

All the other Desolate Immortals were also shouting enthusiastically, "All hails the Universal Ruler!"

The Heaven Goddess Zero and the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien were already at Yi Ping side as they asked endearingly, "Did we hurt you earlier? How are you feeling now? We don't mean to fight with you. We are willing to be punished by you!"

The World Ruler Fu Xi smiled weakly, "It seems that the hearts of my two Great Goddesses have already surrendered to someone else now and not to their Lord Brother anymore."

The Goddess Lessica was also smiling as she said to the Alluring Goddess Theresa, "He is the one that the Oracle Clan has prophesized. The long wait is finally over at last!"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa looked a little melancholy before she lit a smile, "It is a little pity that the Universal Ruler has too many company."

Chapter 246: Homecoming

There were only the six of them remaining; the World Ruler Fu Xi had already dismissed the Blackwinds Legion.

The grandeur of the Firmament Citadel was not lesser if not greater than the Verdant Palace of the Great Lord Xuan Yuan.

As many as eight white monument bridges hung in suspension to the imposing and towering citadel. It was like a city within the Ancient Fortress!

Unlike the Verdant Palace, there was an aura of amicable air that he was familiar with.

From afar, Yi Ping's keen eyes could see that there were many mortals and lesser practitioners among the Desolate Immortals. He was genuinely surprised because some of the Desolate Immortals were even engaging in casual talk with the mortals and there were no hint of any superior airs!

The World Ruler Fu Xi said nonchalantly, "Welcome to the Firmament Citadel. Before you go, have a look at my domain."

He nodded and rubbed his chest. At this moment, he was not wearing the Omnipotent Creation Armor anymore. It was because the armor was part of him and he had remerged it within his golden body, to summon as he saw fit the next time.

He was glad that he was able to control the Omnipotent Creation Armor with his strength and will. It was because for a moment, he was thinking hard on how to remove it. Fortunately, he was able to succeed the first time by absorbing it into his body with his Universal Creation Force.

A sense of loss greeted him soon after. It was as though he had lost his heighten sense of invulnerability and confidence. But he soon composed himself as he meditated himself into a state of tranquil as he thought, "Since time memorial, power often corrupts men. My faith comes from my own combat ability and not from my armor or my swords. I should be

the rider of my artefacts and not the other way round."

It was only because of Yi Ping insatiable will to better himself continuously that caused him to be above all the rest. He could be beaten but he learnt quickly enough and his fighting spirit never faltered in the face of fierce adversaries. It was this indominatable spirit of his that gained him control of the sanctorum strength of the Celestial Alice, the Fantian Sovereign and the Omnipotent Creation Armor!

Yi Ping asked curiously, "There are mortals in your domain?"

The World Ruler Fu Xi laughed aloud, "You are surprise?"

Yi Ping nodded, "I have thought that the Desolate Immortals view the mortals as inferiors."

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien laughed as she shrugged her Lord Brother, "Naturally they are our inferiors. However, our Lord Brother is also known as the Human Ruler. He has a special fondness for them, guiding them on the path of ascension."

The World Ruler Fu Xi grumbled softly, "That is none of your business. This is my domain and I do whatever I want."

Yi Ping was startled as he asked, "Isn't this the same as the Great God Pangu?"

The World Ruler Fu Xi hummed coldly, "You are saying that I am like Pangu? Wrong! I don't intend to partition the Immortal Realm for the mortals. If the mortals are capable and willing to submit to the superiors then they have the right to live as we do. This is our tradition."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa nodded and added, "You know why I have allied with Fu Xi from the start and not the other great lords? It is because we share the same ideals. One day, mortal practitioners and immortal practitioners can walk together to overcome the Divine Calamity! One day, mortal practitioners and immortal practitioners can find a way to reach the Great Beyond and attain enlightenment!"

For the very first time Yi Ping had an appreciation of the Alluring Goddess Theresa and the World Ruler Fu Xi as he muttered, "To the Great

Beyond..."

He remembered the spiraling void and the nine dimensional rifts that he had seen when he had first dematerialized. He thought, "That is the forbidden Great Beyond that only the Tenth Immortal Positioning can reach? I was traveling there but somehow I have faltered. Maybe I am not strong enough. One day, I would like to go there but not now."

It was because he could not bear to leave his companions behind. Secretly, he knew that was the reason why his spirit could not soar there. But he was not regretfully. He mused to himself, "I have more regrets here and many more worthy opponents to fight in the material plane. Alas! I would even like to fight the Alluring Goddess Theresa again, this time without the aid of the Omnipotent Creation Armor. I wonder how strong the World Ruler Fu Xi and the Great Lord Xuan Yuan really are!"

He knew that they had all reserved their most secret arts and techniques to use at an opportune time. It was because they were not desperate yet. With this thought, he was immediately spirited at the prospect of fighting them one day and he was not bothered with the loss of traverse to the Great Beyond!

The Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled as she lifted her fingers to form an intricate gesture, "It is time. We are ready now to transfer our negative nuclear life energies to you. May you be blessed by the Eternal Cosmos and your travels will be smooth!"

Yi Ping quickly replied, "Thank you!"

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien and the Heaven Goddess Zero had also formed intricate gestures on their own.

The light breeze was blowing heavier now and the air was already charged by their negative nuclear life energies that they had gathered on their fingertips!

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien bit her lips as she whispered to his ears, "I don't care if the others hear me. Don't forget us, especially me when you have returned to your own world. That day when I first saw you in the streets of the Ancient Fortress, I have already known that you are

someone special especially when you have intercepted my sister and I with your combat finesse. At that time, I was even a little worry about hurting you but I guess that my worries are unfound!"

Yi Ping could only manage a weak smile before the Heaven Goddess Zero whispered, "You know at that time, I was a little offended and irritated by you when you have evaded my Seven Stars Mirage. But from that point onward, I cannot get you out of my mind. Who you are, what are you and where are you from?"

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien quickly said, "That is why we have asked our Lord Brother for aid. Even if it meant that we have to upset the delicate balance between the Firmament Citadel and the Verdant Palace, we have decided to make the trip to the Verdant Palace for you."

Yi Ping asked, "You didn't come for my Fantian Sovereign?"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa interrupted with a wry smile, "They didn't. I did. The Fantian Sovereign is a heritage artefact of the Oracle Clan. But it seems that the Fantian Sovereign has already found itself a new master so it is pointless for me to pursue the Fantian Sovereign any longer. Moreover..."

She looked at the Goddess Lessica with a soft sigh, "You didn't tell me everything, am I right?"

The Goddess Lessica quickly bowed with fright and said humbly, "Mistress, I didn't think that I can hide from you. He is indeed not the Great God Pangu..."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa sniffed softly as she looked up to the heavens before saying melancholy, "You are wrong. He is the Great God Pangu!..."

Immediately the World Ruler Fu Xi, the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien and the Heaven Goddess Zero turned ashen as they stared blankly at Yi Ping for an answer!

The Heaven Goddess Zero exclaimed with faltering voice, "You! You are really the Great God Pangu? Tell me it isn't true! You are the one that

have banished us to this desolate realm!"

Yi Ping was solemn as he replied coolly, "Yes, I am indeed the Great God Pangu but at the same time I am not really Pangu. I am just his reincarnated."

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien asked the Alluring Goddess Theresa, "How do you know?"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled wryly, "Unlike the other divine swords, the sanctorum powers of the Fantian Sovereign can only be used by Pangu. Since you bear no resemblance to Pangu then you must be his reincarnated. Moreover..."

She looked piercingly at Yi Ping before saying, "Moreover, I can sniff the scent of Fantian on you. My sister..."

The Goddess Lessica lowered her glances as she said, "Mistress, you have already known..."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled, "I have already known from the first time that I have met him."

Yi Ping asked perplexed, "Then why are you helping me?"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled and said, "I don't care for Pangu or Fantian. You are the Universal Ruler. The only reason why I have opposed Fantian is because I don't think that Pangu is the Universal Ruler and that Fantian has given him the secrets of the Oracle Clan, secrets that are meant for the Universal Ruler."

The World Ruler Fu Xi laughed heartily, "She has hinted that I may be the Universal Ruler in the past!"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled wryly, "Wrong. I have thought that between the Great Rift Lord Xuan Yuan and you, the two of you are the possible candidates to be the Universal Ruler. But I am wrong."

Yi Ping knew that they had feud with the Great God Pangu. So he said solemnly, "Since you have already known that I am the reincarnation of the Great God Pangu then why are you still helping me?..."

Suddenly he paused abruptly as he thought, "If she has already known, is she waiting for this moment to reveal everything so that the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien and the Heaven Goddess Zero would refuse to aid me? So that I may fail in the very end?"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa began to laugh jovially, "So are you thinking what I am thinking?"

With that, Yi Ping began to shiver lightly!

Just as he was about to say something, he noticed that the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien and the Heaven Goddess Zero were smiling at him!

That was not the reaction that he was expecting!

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien blown a kiss on his ear as she said softly, "I am thankful to Theresa for telling us the truth. You are one of us..."

Yi Ping was perplexed as he repeated after her, "One of us?..."

The Heaven Goddess Zero smiled brightly, "If you are Pangu reincarnated then you are a Desolate Immortal and one of our own people!"

Yi Ping asked, "You don't blame me?"

The Heaven Goddess Zero smiled coyly, "Of course not! It seems that you have a lot more to learn about us. After all, you are going to be our Universal Ruler pretty soon!"

Yi Ping smiled weakly as he thought, "It seems that I have a lot more to learn than this. So this is their way. They only respect the strong and their ideals. For a moment I thought that they are going to slaughter me because of who I am in the past. I didn't think that they can readily accept who I am so easily. If only the intrigues of the martial fraternity can be settled as simple as this then things would not be as complex and the feuds would not be so lasting."

Finally the Heaven Goddess Zero softened her voice to say, "Don't forget us. We will meet sooner or later."

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien nodded and said, "The Ancient Fortress

will make the crossing soon. A hundred year is just a short wait."

Yi Ping rubbed his nose awkwardly to say, "Thank you! Surely we will meet again. When we do, I hope that we will be on the same side again."

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien nodded, "Naturally we will be. After all, we have sworn our allegiances to you."

He paused briefly to say firmly, "I will never allow the Desolate Immortals to disturb the peace of the Immortal Realm but if they come in peace then they are welcome."

The Heaven Goddess Zero smiled mischievously, "Are you thinking of banishing the Ancient Fortress to the Desolate Realm again? That will require a blood price and it may not work the next time round. The Desolate Immortals are much stronger than before now, you know. Your sacrifice may be in vain."

Yi Ping smiled, "Then I will fight with all the great lords and great goddess if I cannot persuade them otherwise!"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled, "Then I will aid you if that is your aim. I will follow you and abide by your wishes!"

Yi Ping nodded before he asked hesitatingly, "Will you get along with Fantian?"

The smiles on the Alluring Goddess Theresa were paused as she lowered her glances melancholy, "If that is the will of the Universal Ruler then so shall it be."

Yi Ping sighed. It was because he did not like to force anyone to his will. But today he forced himself to say, "That is indeed my will."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa lifted her eyes to look at him as she said coldly, "Your will is my will. I will do it. But..."

She hesitated for a while as her eyes shifted with unease.

Yi Ping asked with a soft sigh, "But what? Feel free to say..."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa whispered, "Promise me that you will be back."

Yi Ping was surprised by this request.

The Heaven Goddess Zero, the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien and the Goddess Lessica were all nodding at the same time too as they looked earnestly at Yi Ping.

He sighed softly as he looked at everyone. He knew that the Alluring Goddess Theresa, the Heaven Goddess Zero and the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien were sacrificing their hard earned attainment for him so that he could return to the Stellar Sanctuary.

He knew that he had no way to repay any of them.

Although he may looked cold and forbidding due to his immortal cultivation, his heart however was burning with his hot tears!

If he was only a martial fighter of the martial fraternity, his hot tears would have already covered his face now!

At this moment, his emotions were stirring and his heighten senses got a jolted awakening!

It was because he had just overcome his ninety-nine major calamity of his life to walk this journey to become the one and only Universal Ruler!

In order to accomplish this feat, he had to undergone countless small trials and ninety-nine major calamities. He had been through countless life and death battles. If he had taken the wrong misstep, he would be doomed.

It was all due to the people, his friends and his companions that he had met throughout his travels. Even though some have little impact but together they had contributed to a solidary unity that had sent him through!

An invincible fighter can never be the Universal Ruler nor can he inherit the mantle of the Great God Pangu. The more invincible a fighter was the harder and the harsher the ninety-nine calamities would be!

He mustered his heartfelt voice to say, "I'll promise!"

He paused for a while and said firmly, "I will never forget any of you."

The Heaven Goddess Zero smiled, "Other than the Great Goddess Fantian, only we are fit to be your consorts. You will not find better companions than any of us!"

Yi Ping smiled weakly as he rubbed his nose to say wryly, "Alas! I have many companions from where I have come from. It is not a matter who are better..."

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien laughed softly, "This we do not mind. If you do not have other companions then we will really be surprised! What my sister meant to say that we are all Great Goddesses and are a better fitting for you."

The Heaven Goddess Zero was giggling jovially as she winked at Yi Ping, "That is right! You have four Great Goddesses as your company, isn't this such a good thing? You ought to appoint us as your four Great Goddesses of your new clan!"

Yi Ping smiled weakly as he thought, "Four Great Goddesses? Zero, Theresa, Xia Hsien and Xian'Er?"

He rubbed his nose to say, "Actually there is five then."

The Heaven Goddess Zero groaned unhappily, "There is another? Who is she? Do we know her?"

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien hummed coldly, "Not likely. She must be a nobody. Maybe someone that has reached the Eighth Immortal Positioning from seventh."

Yi Ping managed a weak smile to say, "She is the Desolate Goddess Nuwa. Maybe you may not know her..."

All of a sudden the Heaven Goddess Zero and the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien had both turned ashen as they exclaimed in unison, "It is her?!"

Even the Alluring Goddess Theresa was startled as she muttered, "It is her?"

Yi Ping asked, "You know her?"

The Heaven Goddess Zero smiled weakly, "She is a longtime foe of ours.

We have suffered in her hands too many times. She seems to have an innate fighting ability as Fantian and Theresa. Since we have already reached the Ninth Immortal Positioning now, she must have already attained the Ninth Immortal Positioning as well."

Yi Ping could only smile weakly as he thought, "I think I have better not let them know that Nuwa is only at the Eighth Immortal Positioning. She had been imprisoned by Pangu in the Stellar Sanctuary and sealed within the Nine Divine Cauldron for ten thousand years. Her cultivation has struck in the Eighth Immortal Positioning..."

The Dark Goddess Theresa said with a sigh of resignation, "You really know how to pick your companions!"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa fall back to smile alluringly, "Alas Nuwa! The most regal and most elegant beauty of all the goddesses. You do know how to pick. I am really so impressed!"

Yi Ping smiled weakly, "I don't know her past!" He had restrained to add that he had actually found her!

The Goddess Lessica smiled gently, "With the Great Goddess Fantian and the Great Goddess Nuwa fighting on your side, the odds of us winning this immortal war seems much higher now."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa nodded and said, "Before you go, I think that Fu Xi wants to have a final word with you."

The World Ruler Fu Xi nodded as he said solemnly, "I don't know when I will see you again but surely I am sure that it won't be far too long in the future. We will await your return or when the time comes for the Ancient Fortress to return to the Immortal Realm, we will see each other again."

He sighed almost pitifully, "Unfortunately, we have not really fight."

Yi Ping nodded as he thought of the same too. He said, "That is most unfortunately. And unfortunately, I cannot afford to delay any further or sustain any injuries. But I'll promise you this; when we do meet again, we can have a friendly duel!"

The World Ruler Fu Xi laughed aloud, "That will be great but I am

afraid that I am no longer your match anymore."

Yi Ping said quietly, "I won't use the Omnipotent Creation Armor. Are you still on?"

The World Ruler Fu Xi laughed heartily as he pat his chest with excitement in his eyes, "That is agreed upon then!"

Yi Ping bowed respectfully with his hands, "Then that's it! Till we see each other again!"

The World Ruler Fu Xi bowed with his hands in return, "Even if you are the Universal Ruler, I will not pull my punches!"

Yi Ping turned to face the Goddess Lessica, the Alluring Goddess Theresa, the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien and the Heaven Goddess Zero to say, "I have no way to repay our chance encounter!"

The Goddess Lessica smiled warmly, "Don't! Remember what you have said to the rest at the great hall of the Verdant Palace?"

Yi Ping blinked his eyes and asked, "What did I say?"

The Goddess Lessica lowered her glances and said shyly, "That you have chosen me as your consort. I won't pursue it now but don't forget about it!"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa laughed mesmerizingly, "I think that he has already forgotten about it!"

To the startled surprise of the Alluring Goddess Theresa, the Goddess Lessica, the Heaven Goddess Zero and the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien, Yi Ping suddenly said. "I won't. When we meet again, I will take you as my consort."

All of a sudden the Alluring Goddess Theresa, the Heaven Goddess Zero and the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien became very solemn as they seemed to be fallen into a pondering state!

Yi Ping suddenly said with a wry smile, "If the three of you do not mind, you can be my consorts if you wish when we have met again."

The Heaven Goddess Zero looked at her sister before asking, "Really?"

The Alluring Goddess Theresa was smiling again as she said, "I will consider then!"

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien smiled, "You have better not go back on your word!"

Yi Ping sighed softly as he smiled back, "If I am unable to catch the hints that you have been dropping me then I must really be blind!"

The Goddess Lessica, the Alluring Goddess Theresa, the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien and the Heaven Goddess Zero, even the World Ruler Fu Xi were all laughing heartily when they had heard that.

The Alluring Goddess Theresa smiled with a heartfelt melancholy, "It is time. The stars have begun its crossing. It is time for departure."

The Heaven Goddess Zero was saddened all of a sudden as she nodded, "Till we meet again."

The Dark Goddess Xia Hsien looked at Yi Ping intently before saying, "My heart goes forth for you..."

Yi Ping said solemnly, "Everyone..."

The Alluring Goddess Theresa, the Heaven Goddess Zero and the Dark Goddess Xia Hsien had already lifted their fingers as they struck Yi Ping, immersing him with a soft pink glow...

The Goddess Lessica sighed as she muttered melancholy, "Good bye and till we meet again..."

Chapter 247: The Collapse of the Stellar Sanctuary

An overwhelming darkness seemed to envelop Yi Ping as he willed himself back to his real physical body.

He was dazzled by a sudden bright light and soon after, he was immediately greeted by several familiar joyous cries!

As stunning light greeted him when he opened his eyes, he saw many familiar faces and saw that he was now back at the Stellar Sanctuary!

Xian'Er, Lingfeng, Yu'Er, Mei'Er, Alice, Isa, Aiel, Youxue, Lie Qing, Nuwa, the Goddess of Mercy Xiang, Han Lin, Yunzi, the Universal Old Man and many others were all standing around Yi Ping excitingly!

Next there was a terrifying hearty roar by the White Divine Tiger, followed by the Xiao Ping the Golden Kirin as they stomped their paws to welcome Yi Ping!

Lingfeng the Heaveness laughed jovially as she gave him a soft kick, "What happens to you? We are so worried for you. You are finally back!"

Xian'Er gripped his hand and said, "Ping'Er, you are finally back!..."

Mei'Er laughed jovially, "Do you know that our Mistress and the Great Desolate Goddess Nuwa are about to make another attempt to cross the boundaries of space to the Desolate Realm to look for you!"

But she immediately softened to say, "Because of you, they have suffered grave internal injuries."

Yu'Er sighed softly, "If you have not returned then they would have risked a fourth time..."

Xian'Er replied gently, "Ping'Er, I am alright. Please do not worry."

Nuwa coughed softly, "I am not alright. If we fail another time then we may very well lost our lives."

Yi Ping was burning with hot tears inside as he looked at them,

"Xian'Er, Nuwa...alas! I wish I know how to say words of comfort. It is not worth to lose your lives because of me..."

Xian'Er smiled gently as she held his hand even tighter, "No my dear. For you, everything for you is worth it!"

Lele smiled, "You know, they are not the only ones that are anxious for you!"

She pointed to the smiling Youxue, Yunzi, Lie Qing, the Ascension Goddess Ye Yin and Shen Xingyue and Yunzi, "Are you forgetting about us?"

Yi Si was also smiling as she said, "Father! Glad to have you back!"

The Universal Old Man was patting his belly as he laughed heartily, "I know that he will surely be able to overcome the Stellar Sanctuary!"

Yunzi and Lie Qing were looking at him with affectionate eyes as they said at the same time, "Ping'Er!"

Yi Ping was also smiling as he exclaimed aloud, "Qing'Er, Yunzi, Xue'Er, Xing'Er, Ye Yin...how is everyone?"

The Goddess Celestial Alice smiled, "What a great reunion!"

Yi Ping nodded and smiled back, "Ziyan, Alice..."

Behind her, were the Goddess Isa, the Goddess of Mercy Xiang'Er, Aiel, Han Lin and the Goddess Asura and they were all smiling shyly at him. While they were equally excited at seeing Yi Ping again, they were too shy and mindful to express their heartfelt sentiments unlike Yi Ping's original group.

The Lord Supreme, the Skylord Jun, the Ancient Heavenly Sage King, the Sacred Embodied Heavenly Goddess, the Western Paradise Heavenly King, the Universal Old Man, the Jade Emperor, the Avant-garde Heavenly King, the Celestial Liege and Ye Ling were all smiling as they looked intently at Yi Ping.

Yi Ping sighed softly as he remembered the demise of the Nirvana Heavenly Queen, the Heavenly Pagoda King, the Formula Heavenly King,

the Martial Sage, the Skylord Jun and the Immortal Saint of Swords...

They had attempted to scale the stairs of the Stellar Sanctuary instead of helping the group. It was because they knew in hindsight that if they were to reach the Pangu Divine Armor then they would be granted the Creation Universal Force and they would be the next Great God Pangu!

Even though they knew that Yi Ping was Pangu reincarnation, it did not bother them. They knew that whoever reached the top first was destined to be the next Great God Pangu, the Ruler of the Three Known Realms!

Yi Ping was still grieved when he had remembered their demise. It was because he had a special fondness for the Martial Sage, the Skylord Jun and the Immortal of Saints. Moreover the Skylord Jun and the Immortal Saint of Swords were his sworn brothers.

He did not blame them for attempting to scale the stairs at all. It was because he had no real desire to be the Great God Pangu or the Ruler of the Three Known Realms.

He did not want to be another Great God Pangu. He did not want to be his old incarnation again. That would be too lonely at the very top.

Alice smiled and asked, "Have you obtain the divine inspiration to reach the Tenth Immortal Positioning? Have you obtained the Pangu Divine Armor?"

Yi Ping nodded lightly and said, "Yes, I have obtained the Creation Universal Force and have just attained the initial stage of the Tenth Immortal Positioning. Yes, I have obtained the Pangu Divine Armor. This divine armor has a name. It is actually the Omnipotent Creation Armor of the Stellar Sanctuary. It is actually its voice that is speaking to us and challenging us to the feats of the Stellar Sanctuary."

He closed his eyes to recall the last moment again and had recalled what the Stellar Sanctuary had told him; great love was the true arousing power that can receive and contain the potent power of the Creation Universal Force.

It was precisely he could not abandon the love that was in his heart; he

would rather face the severe consequences of the divine calamities and the six cycles of afflictions than abandoned the sentimental love that was within him. (See Chapter 234)

He stared blankly as he muttered, "Everyone..."

Immediately everyone was responding to him like chorus, "Yes? Ping'Er? Yi Ping?..."

He had finally understood why the Dark Chaos Lord had failed at the last step of the trial of the Stellar Sanctuary and why the Great God Pangu had failed to contain the power of the Universal Creation Force.

His personal trial of the Stellar Sanctuary was extremely tedious because he had to take care of his group and the power level of the Stellar Sanctuary increased tremendously as the numbers increased!

He could not forget his companions and the countless sacrifices that everyone had been through to reach this point!

There were heart wrenching tears, heartfelt joys, great pains and tormenting toils along the way. All these he could not forget, could not erase from his mind and heart!

Because of that, he could be the true destined one of the Stellar Sanctuary and be the Master of the Stellar Sanctuary. Because of that, he had transcended above the Dark Chaos Lord and the Great Lord Pangu. From now on, he was to be known as the Universal Ruler and the future ruler of the Six Realms instead of being the Great God Pangu of the Three Known Realms!

Yi Ping was trembling as he muttered with heartfelt emotions in his eyes, "Everyone, thank you for accompanying me till this far..."

Just as the group was all chatting excitingly with each other as they looked intently at Yi Ping, they were alarmed that there were blue and yellow glow that were surrounding everyone!

Yi Ping was surrounded by an animus of yellow lit glows and so were many others.

Lele exclaimed with shock as she tried to disperse the yellow animus that was on her, "What is this light? I can't get it off me!"

Alice said gently, "Now that the trials have ended, the Stellar Sanctuary is now collapsing and we will be returned to where we have come from."

Yi Ping sighed softly. Indeed, this was the moment that he had been dreading to happen. It was time for them to part!

The Goddess Isa said, "The immortal practitioners will be sent to the Immortal Realm while the celestial practitioners will be returned to the outside."

Yunzi looked at her blue glow with sad sorrow in her eyes before she muttered, "The yellow glow indicates that the practitioner will be sent to the Immortal Realm while the blue glow indicates the practitioner will be returned to the Celestial Realm."

The Universal Old Man was brimming with tears as he hugged the Lord Supreme, "Old man! Did you see? We are finally going to the Immortal Realm now!"

The Universal Old Man and the Lord Supreme were enveloped in yellow glow!

The Lord Supreme smiled weakly as he said, "I am not blind, you know."

Yu'Er, Mei'Er, the Ascension Goddess Ye Yin and the Fiery Phoenix Shen Xingyue were all exclaiming excitedly, "All hails the Lord Supreme!"

Mei'Er added excitedly, "Lord Father, you can finally get your wish and transmigrate to the Immortal Realm now!"

The Lord Supreme sighed, "I am an Ancient Celestial and finally I can ascend to the Immortal Realm. But the four of you, you can also ascend to the Immortal Realm? I can't believe it!"

Indeed, the four of them were also enveloped in yellow glow!

Yu'Er laughed softly as she turned to look shyly at Yi Ping, "It is all thanks to Master Yi!"

Shen Xingyue nodded and smiled, "All the Supreme Celestials are going

to the Immortal Realm now. So who is going to take care of the Holy Ascension Sect?"

Ye Yin said indifferently, "Don't forget we still have one old Ascendant Custodian that is left behind."

Xingyue smiled alluringly, "You mean that Old Reverend Vanquisher Sage?"

Ye Yin smiled, "Who else? But I wonder why Xingyue and I are now immortal practitioners? The Axis and Eclipse Heaven Goddesses I know but us?"

The Jade Emperor overheard and answered her, "That is because you have awakened the sanctorum powers of your swords and your destinies will be as one of the Thirty-Three Heavenly Kings from now."

At the same time the Jade Emperor had turned aside to address the Celestial Liege, Ye Ling and Yi Si, "I guess it is time for me to return to the Immortal Realm. Train well in the Celestial Realm. Your cultivation has only just begun."

Yi Si was bleary, "Grandpa! You are leaving us!..."

The Jade Emperor patted her head and smiled serenely, "Silly, we will meet again one day."

Yi Si looked at Lele and Yi Ping, "Grandpa...even my parents are leaving me. I will be extremely lonely..."

Lele interrupted with a soft reprimand, "My child. You must be strong. Cultivate well and join me in the Immortal Realm one day. After all, don't you want to witness the glory of your mother who is the new empress of the immortal realm? Or your father again?"

Yi Ping muttered softly, "Yi Si, I have never done my duty as a father. I am really overjoyed to see you here. One day, we will surely meet once more. You must cultivate well and stay away from evil. Don't be distracted by the material things."

Yi Si replied quietly, "I will father. I really hope so to see you again."

The Celestial Liege said, "Yi Si, you still have your uncle here and your aunt Ye Ling here."

Ye Ling smiled, "That's right!"

Han Lin was glowing with blue animus and she was looking tearfully at Aiel and Yi Ping, "Mistress, you are leaving me. We have been together for so many centuries..."

Aiel was also emotional as she tried to hold back her tears, "My heavenly eyes are unsealed now and I am back to being an immortal. Han Lin, I won't forgive you if you don't become an immortal. Don't keep me waiting. Things aren't the same if you are not around. Do you know?…"

Lie Qing and Youxue were hugging Yunzi.

Lie Qing said unhappily, "I don't understand. Why is that I got to go to the immortal realm but not you...I very well know that I got to the immortal realm because Ping'Er has given me the Feather Sword Shard and that has the effect of also enhancing my cultivation progression."

Youxue lowered her eyes too to say, "It is all due to Nuwa that I am able to ascend to the immortal realm. Without the Divine Nine Cauldron to aid me, it is impossible for me to ascend on my own as well..."

Yunzi smiled serenely, "Trust me, I will be joining everyone soon so I am not anxious at all. If I am not anxious, why worry?"

Yi Ping quickly said as he sensed his grip on reality loosening now, "Yunzi! I will surely come for you! I promise you! We will meet soon enough!..."

Multiple colored lights in yellow and blue began to flash throughout even as Yi Ping voice could be heard resonating, "I will never forget everyone. We have been through so much, so much together..."

Chapter 248: The Martial Fraternity

The tavern was large but today it seemed to be a little too small. Hundreds of people had gathered inside and from the first floor to the third floor, it was fully pack with onlookers.

The onlookers were standing on the second floor and the third floor as they looked down to the first floor which was the center of the tavern.

A plump middle age man had just walked in with a smile. There was a noble air around him and the crowd whispered, "That is Master Nangong Le! He has come alone!"

He waved his fan as he looked squarely at the majestic bearded man who was sitting on the table. On his side were his four Hall Chiefs and thirty subordinates!

This majestic bearded man was none other than Master Sikong Zuo, the new Martial Alliance Chief of the Martial Fraternity and the Protégé Grandmaster of the Fraternity Alliance Clan!

Needless to say his martial skill was naturally formidable!

As for his four Hall Chiefs, their martial feats were the equal of the major orthodox clans and they were also known as the Four Hedonistic Butchers!

In recent years, the Fraternity Alliance Clan had swept aside all resistances to become the most powerful clan in the Martial Fraternity!

Nangong Le sighed softly, "Yes I have come alone."

Sikong Zuo said coldly, "I have heard that you have three other sworn brothers so where are they?"

Nangong Le smiled and said, "Alas. Brothers Yi Ping, Gongsun Jing, Qiu Wufeng..."

He stopped smiling and said piercingly, "If my Brother Yi is still alive, you won't be able to be so insolent! As for my other brothers, they have long retired from the martial fraternity so there is no need to involve

them!"

He pointed to the onlookers on top of the tavern and said aloud, "Where are the righteous ones of the martial fraternity? Where are the courageous fighters? Are you willing to submit to this tyrant and not to do a thing and allow him to step on you like a worthless thing? Step up if you are still a man!"

All the hundreds of onlookers from a dozen over clan began to lower their eyes and did not dare to say a word!

Sikong Zuo smiled, "They are under my absolute control. If I want them to smile then they will smile. If I want them to cry, they will cry. It is pointless to incite the others. Might is right. It has always been the case in the martial fraternity. Only the stubborn and the foolish refuse to submit. Today, I will kill you and destroy your clan. Because you are man of repute so I am going to let you die in my hands."

Nangong Le smiled wryly as he bowed, "My pleasure, my pleasure! I know that the Fraternity Alliance Clan has been yearning after the riches of the Nangong Clan for ages. If you want to dominate the fraternity then you have to have money. So naturally no matter what I am going to say today, I won't be allowed to leave alive!"

Even though he had appeared to be fearless, he was actually secretly fearful and his legs had already turned to jelly!

It was only because he had been practicing the Exuberant Divine Skill. Even in the direct of situations, his face would always be smiling!

Sikong Zuo smiled, "I am glad that you have known. So are you thinking of fighting me with your fan or your fist? Where is your weapon?"

Nangong Le smiled forcefully as he said righteously, "Against an evil doer such as you even a fan will be able to beat you off."

But secretly he thought, "Oh crap. I am out of practice with my sword... alas to think that I, Nangong Le, who has always been roaming the fraternity so carefree, is now going to meet my demise in such a dirty place..."

Sikong Zuo stood up as he shouted, "Rubbish!"

Immediately the whole tavern was reverberating with the power of his martial shout!

Such powerful internal strength!

Sikong Zuo pointed at Nangong Le, "One of your sons is now sitting as the Grandmaster of the Holy Hex Sect now. Today, I am going to purge the remnants of the heretic sects from the martial fraternity!"

"Then get rid of us as well then!" A voice was heard from the outside.

Nangong Le was startled as he quickly turned to face the entrance. It was because it was a familiar voice!

He had turned around to find not one familiar face but two!

Two middle noble men had walked into the tavern!

Nangong Le was startled as he stammered out, "Brother Gongsun Jing, Brother Qiu Wufeng! Why are you here?!"

Gongsun Jing laughed as he raised his long sword, "We may have retired but now that you are in trouble, naturally we are here to help."

The onlookers were startled as they whispered incessantly to themselves!

Gongsun Jing the Benevolent and Qiu Wufeng the Windless Swordsman were the two most accomplished swordsmen of their time before they had retired!

And Gongsun Jing was the scion of the once powerful Gongsun Clan. Until today, there were many stories about the Gongsun Clan!

Sikong Zuo laughed aloud, "Good! This saves me the trouble of finding the two of you! Today I will give you the honor of fighting me at the same time!"

Gongsun Jing asked, "Where is your weapon?"

Sikong Zuo pointed to a tall and muscular man behind him, "This is my iron sword. It weighed twenty kilograms and in this world, only I am able

to wield it. But today, I am going to use my bare hands. To kill an ant, do I need to use a butcher knife?"

Qiu Wufeng said, "Even an ant will sting. Don't regret it!"

Sikong Zuo had already walked forward. He had an imposing aura and it seemed that in this entire world, nothing could hurt him. He was like a undefeatable titan!

He said coldly, "So what are you waiting for? I am still waiting for you to strike."

The four Hall Chiefs were all smirking coldly, "They are stupid as pigs. Fancy challenging our Grandmaster!"

Gongsun Jing displayed his sword stance as he shouted, "Go!"

Immediately Nangong Le and Qiu Wufeng flew left and right around Gongsun Jing as they attacked Sikong Zuo at the same time!

To the astonishment of the onlookers, barely had Nangong Le, Qiu Wufeng and Gongsun Jing made their moves, they were floored on the floor, struck by dozens of iron breaking blows that thundered tremendously!

Nangong Le, Qiu Wufeng and Gongsun Jing all coughed out blood as they struggled to stand again.

But Sikong Zuo had already made a quiet move and had raised his palm on Nangong Le's forehead!

This quiet move was so fast that Nangong Le could not believe his eyes. By the time he had seen Sikong Zuo moving, the iron crushing palm was already upon his forehead!

Well, almost.

It was because a hand had caught the wrist of Sikong Zuo, stunning everyone!

It was a slender young man in white that had suddenly appeared out of nowhere!

On his back were two very long swords that seemed out of place given his slender body.

How did he appeared in the middle of nowhere without anyone noticing him? More than half of the people here were first rate fighters!

Some was muttering, "Did you see that? How did he come in?"

This slender young man in white was very charismatic and there was an air of righteous around him. Immediately, more than half the onlookers were moved to follow this slender young man automatically for reasons that they could not even finger!

The slender young man gently pushed back Sikong Zuo and said gently, "They are my brothers. Do not harm them!"

This gentle push had the effect of pushing the astonished Sikong Zuo back all the way to the end of the hallway, stunning everyone!

Suddenly the aura of Sikong Zuo was diminished and this weak scholar that had just appeared was like an undefeatable titan!

How was it possible? He was only a young man!

Nangong Le, Gongsun Jing and Qiu Wufeng could only stare blankly at this slender young man in white, not knowing what to say!

The slender young man rubbed his nose and smile wryly, "What? You don't recognize your brother anymore? It is just a little while only!"

Nangong Le blinked his eyes before he laughed aloud on the floor, "Darn it! It is really you, our Brother Yi Ping! Brother Jing and Brother Wufeng, did you see, did you see? It is really Yi Ping! What a little while only? You rascal! It has been decades since you have left mysteriously!"

Gongsun Jing stared blankly before he laughed aloud as well, "For a moment, I have thought that you are Yi Ping's son. You are really Yi Ping!"

Qiu Wufeng stood up and beat his fist on his chest to say aloud, "All you onlookers! Open your big eyes and see who is here! He is Yi Ping! The hero of the Holy Amalgamate Battle!"

The onlookers were all staring, not knowing whether to believe or not as they muttered, "He is the Yi Ping that had fought with hundreds of exponents on the Holy Amalgamate Mountains? He is really the one? He is that peerless fighter and the number one fighter of all time?"

The four hall chiefs were enraged as they raised their weapons. They moved with lightning speed to strike the slender young man!

But the slender young man appeared to walk past them. No one could see his martial moves but the four hall chiefs were fallen to the ground with blood in their mouths and their weapons were shattered!

Yi Ping muttered, "I hope that I did not use much force."

All the onlookers were stunned!

It was because they were fully aware of the martial accomplishments of the four hall chiefs!

For them to fall in just a single move was unthinkable!

Moreover, they were grouping together to fight just a single foe!

Sikong Zuo was enraged as he grabbed his heavy iron clad sword from his arm bearer and shouted, "I don't care who you are but today, I will make you pay heavily for your audacious behavior! I will tear you apart and feed you to the dogs..."

All of a sudden a maiden in white had flew in from nowhere and had struck the chest of Sikong Zuo, breaking through his heavy iron clad sword with her fingers in the process!

Sikong Zuo could not believe his eyes and he could not even scream out aloud, such was his agonizing pain!

Only when this maiden in white stopped moving, everyone could finally see her looks and were awestruck by her heavenly appearance!

Next, everyone was now too stunned to believe that this maiden in white had actually destroyed Sikong Zuo's famous heavy ironclad sword with just her fingers alone and that she had also fell Sikong Zuo with just a single move!

Yi Ping groaned softly, "Xiang'Er, you are too harsh. You have disabled his martial strength permanently..."

Indeed this maiden in white was the Goddess of Mercy Xiang!

Xiang laughed jovially as she raised her fingers to shoot four needles and struck the four fallen hall chiefs, "So what are you going to do with me then? I have disabled them just as well!"

She softened her eyes to say gently, "They are evil men and have many blood in their hands. It is impossible for them to ascend so don't be too anxious about them."

Nangong Le was staring at the maiden in white as he flushed redly, "Yi Ping, who is she? Why didn't you introduce her? Since my wife had passed away, I have been so lonely."

Yi Ping pretended not to hear him as he turned around to say, "You are with Xiang too?"

It was because everyone was astonished to see three other peerless heavenly maidens sitting on the table in the corner all of a sudden!

One of the heavenly maidens was even cuddling a baby!

If the white maiden that had just appeared was stunning enough, these three heavenly maidens were even so, causing everyone to be completely enthralled and losing their souls!

For these onlookers, they would never be able to forget about this scene ever in their lives. Some among the onlookers would even retire from the martial fraternity and be painters, attempting to recreate the scene that had mesmerized them forever!

Nangong Le, Gongsun Jing and Qiu Wufeng were all equally stunned. It was because they could recognize that two of the maidens were Shui Yixian the Celestial Fairy and the Heavenly Temptress Lie Qing!

Like Yi Ping, they had not aged at all!

Yi Ping had used his softened windforce to deflect Xiang's needles but another countering force had neutralized his attempts to stop Xiang. Lie Qing smiled mesmerizing and winked, "Ping'Er, they are evil doers. Disabling them is but a small price. Don't be too benevolent. We can't stay here for too long so treat it as a favor to the martial fraternity."

Asura was beaming with happiness as she cuddled her baby boy. She could be heard muttering, "My child, soon you will begin your trial in the mortal realm. Are you looking forward to it? Your destiny is great and your journey will be a long one. One day, we will surely meet once again. Only in the mortal realm can you advance as a celestial practitioner. May you overcome your divine calamities and be stronger after each experience."

The three heavenly maidens that were seating were indeed Xian'Er, Lie Qing and the Goddess Asura!

Xian'Er smiled gently, "Ping'Er, shall we go now?"

Yi Ping gave a gentle nod.

Almost immediately, the slender young man, the four heavenly maidens, Nangong Le, Gongsun Jing and Qiu Wufeng all vanished from the place, leaving all the onlookers stunned with astonishment!

From that day on, Yi Ping became a living legend in the martial fraternity and evil men dare not be as bold lest it attracted the living legend to return!

The onlookers were aroused by fire and their hearts were fired up as they raised their weapons with great shout that thundered up all the way to the heavens, "Down with the Fraternity Alliance Clan! We are freed now!"

The protégés of the Fraternity Alliance Clan became fearful as the crowd began to storm down from the stairs with their brandish weapons!

Nangong Le, Qiu Wufeng and Gongsun Jing were taken away by Yi Ping and his group!

Nangong Le, Qiu Wufeng and Gongsun Jing were astonished at the swiftness movements that were displayed. In just a few blinks of an eye, they had already traveled ten miles and were in the wilderness of a forest! Once they had all settled to a stop, Yi Ping immediately turned around to say. "Brothers..."

Nangong Le, Qiu Wufeng and Gongsun Jing had noticed that Yi Ping and his group were still serene and they had only expended just a little of their internal energies even though they had enhanced their speed and had traveled ten miles!

They were astonished by their astonishing breathing techniques!

Nangong Le laughed heartily, "Brother Yi Ping, please feel to say."

Qiu Wufeng nodded, "It is good that you have come earlier. We didn't think that it will be you."

Gongsun Jing said emotionally, "Let's us go for a drink together! Together! Till we have become as drunk as pigs!"

Yi Ping smiled as he said emotionlessly, "I can't join you. I am in a hurry. I am so sorry about this."

Gongsun Jing sighed, "We have only just had our reunion and we didn't even have the time to chat yet."

Qiu Wufeng sighed melancholy, "It is too sudden."

Yi Ping took out from his pouch three pristine purple pills and said quietly, "Brothers, once you are weary of the mundane fraternity, please consume this pill and go to the Tranquil Mountains. It will depend on providence and your own cultivation to ascend to the Celestial Realm. When the time of your Divine Calamity has come, please invite the Goddess of Xiang. She will be your guardian to ensure that the transcendent will be favorable to you."

Xiang nodded and said, "My lord Yi Ping has appointed me to be the ruler of the mortal realm. I will reside in the Heavenly Mountains for only a brief period, no more than 60 years then I will have to return to the Immortal Realm to continue my cultivation. Every 600 years, I will return briefly."

Xian'Er smiled as she took out three incense pouches, "The Goddess of

Mercy will be the new Eternal Mistress of the Eternal Ice Palace. Once you have reached the Heavenly Mountains, burn the pouch to a bonfire and the protégés of the Eternal Ice Palace will naturally take you to the Eternal Ice Palace."

Nangong Le had already taken the pill from Yi Ping and had swallowed on the spot!

Qiu Wufeng asked him, "Why are you so hasty? We haven't consumed it yet and you have already consumed it. What is the meaning of this?"

Nangong Le laughed as he secretly looked at the Goddess of Mercy shamelessly, "I can't wait now to go to the Celestial Realm now. I hope that the Goddess of Mercy will instruct me to how to cultivate!"

The Goddess of Mercy was amused as she said with a lit smile, "You are supposed to go to the Tranquil Mountains to begin your cultivation practice first. Judging by your willpower, you may need more than thirty years to cultivate to a reasonable level and another thirty years for the Divine Calamity to happen. Look for me at the end of sixty years then!"

Nangong Le was stunned as he blinked his eyes, "Sixty years?!"

Lie Qing laughed as she said jovially, "She is only teasing with you. The pill that you have consumed will increase your internal strength to sixty years. If you have already cultivated to sixty years, then it will be increased your internal years by another twenty years. If you cultivate well, you may only take twenty years."

Nangong Le quickly regained his composure as he smiled cheekily, "That is a relief then!"

Yi Ping quickly said, "Take good care brothers. I am sorry that I won't be able to stay. I need to go now. Farewell!"

Nangong Le, Qiu Wufeng and Gongsun Jing were brimming with tears as they bowed emotionally, "Farewell Brother Yi Ping!..."

In the next instant, Yi Ping, Xian'Er, Lie Qing, Asura and Xiang had departed.

All they could hear was Yi Ping echoing voices, "Asura, after we have placed our son with Xiang then we have to go to the Celestial Realm. Xian'Er, Shi Shi and Yunzi are still waiting for us..."

Lie Qing was heard laughing, "Don't forget Yang Min as well!"

Chapter 249: The Divine Wrath

At the peak of the Unmoving Mountains where the Holy Ascension Sect was, oceans of drifting clouds were rolling rapidly as strong winds blew furiously!

Just below on a gigantic flat platform, countless celestial practitioners from hundreds of celestial clans had gathered for the first observed celestial ascension that would happen!

The numbers itself was staggering!

What was the Divine Wrath that was lying in wait for a celestial practitioner in order to reach the Immortal Realm?

That was the question that was in everyone's minds!

Old Reverend Vanquisher Sage the new protégé master of the Holy Ascension Sect inhaled deeply as he looked at the numerous celestial practitioners that had gathered, "This is the first time that we have more than fifty percent of the celestial clans that are in the Celestial Realm that are present here."

This may be the holy ground of the most powerful orthodox celestial sect the Holy Ascension Sect but today he was not the most important cultivation practitioner here. Nor were the many celestial leaders here.

In fact he had taken a seat along the sheltered walls of the stone pavilions with the other celestial leaders and their protégés!

They were all waiting for the most important person to arrive.

Finally she had arrived!

From afar, an unearthly breathtaking blonde maiden in a silver scale robe was walking calmly. Behind her were a contingency of protégés from the Celestial Aiel Sect, the Erudite Sect and the Infinity Sword Celestial Clan!

The sight of this unearthly breathtaking blonde maiden had all the thousands of celestials scurrying to their feet before they bowed on the ground with great reverence!

It was because this unearthly breathtaking blonde maiden was not a celestial practitioner but an immortal. Not only an immortal but an immortal of the Seventh Immortal Positioning and she was the Ruler of the Celestial Realm!

She was none other than the Goddess Isa.

She smiled as she arranged her Impervious Dragon Silver Robe under the dazzling sunrays, under the thundering resonates of reverences of her praises and name!

She smiled wryly as she looked keenly at her surroundings before her soft whispers resounded in the ears of everyone, "Rise! Rise! Enough of the praises. I am more than flattered enough!"

Behind her were the Celeste Wind Maiden the new protégé mistress of the Celestial Aiel Sect, Han Lin, Jing'Er the Lunar Heaven Fairy, Shi Shi the Stellar Heaven Fairy and Yang Min the Exalted Heaven Fairy.

Not far away from the Goddess Isa were Yun Zi the new leader of the Infinity Sword Celestial Clan. Also accompanying her was the Lady Winter Plum, Lady Snowflake the mistress of the Erudite and Ziyue her protégé.

Han Lin smiled and said, "Oh Isa! They are singing your praises! Why ask them to stop when we are not even at the steps of the platform yet!"

Is a looked at her and said coldly, "You should learn from Yun Zi. I can't believe that you are about to contest the Divine Wrath today..."

Han Lin shrugged her shoulders and smiled jovially, "What? Who says a person that is about to contest a Divine Calamity has to be quiet? Sister Jing'Er, am I right?"

Jing'Er smiled weakly and said, "The Divine Calamity is life and death to many practitioners. Most practitioners will prefer to meditate quietly and clear their thoughts from distractions..."

Han Lin giggled, "Why so solemn about it? I am not anxious. So why

should you? Maybe Sister Yun Zi is not anxious as well, right?"

Yun Zi replied with a lit smile, "Actually I am anxious but your calmness is soothing to me."

Han Lin laughed jovially, "You see?"

Shi Shi smiled, "I think Han Lin must be excited to see Yi Ping and Aiel again."

Yang Min nodded with a wry smile, "Lucky her! Among the sisters, only Yunzi and Han Lin have the highest cultivation potential to make this attempt."

But she was immediately solemn, "The final Divine Wrath is more deadly than any Divine Wrath that a celestial practitioner has yet to face. Be very careful!"

Jing'Er nodded and cautioned Han Lin, "It is not too late to back off now and take your chance in the Great Wilderness. Perhaps with your attainment, you will be able to reach the First Heaven of the Immortal Realm..."

Han Lin yawned softly, "Nay! The bestial monsters there are too scary. I don't intend to be another Dark Chaos Lord or to face those scary monsters again. I have enough of them in the Stellar Sanctuary. I know that I am not a combat type. I will rather take my chance with the Divine Wrath!"

Jing'Er sighed softly, "Alas, the real reason is your laziness Han Lin. Perhaps I should call you Lazy Han Lin."

Han Lin disapproved immediately, "Aiel is the laziest here, you know. With a protégé mistress like her, even her protégés will be lazy."

Yang Min laughed softly, "Don't let her overheard you. She will be screaming at you for a long time."

Han Lin laughed softly, "I am glad that she isn't around now to overhear me. Moreover if she is around, I will surely fail in my ascension. She will be such a huge distraction!" Jing'Er said weakly, "We shouldn't be gossiping about our mistress here."

She looked at the rest of the curious onlookers and said, "After all, there are others here."

The Goddess Isa had turned around all of a sudden and returned a smile, "Aiel, alas! Hmph! She is indeed lazy. I have never seen anyone that can sleep like her! It is a lucky thing that she starts off as an immortal. I can't imagine her ascending to anywhere except for more troubles!"

But she quickly smiled, "If she don't work hard soon then she will probably lose her position pretty soon."

Han Lin shrugged her shoulders and said, "She is probably just content to be a consort of Yi Ping and just dreaming her way through her fantasies. She isn't bothered with any of us because in her dreams, she is just supreme!"

"Curse you Han Lin!"

Han Lin was startled because all of a sudden, she had heard a familiar shout and it was Aiel!

"I was away just a little while and you are already speaking bad about me! To think that I was so anxious for you! You ungrateful fellow!"

Indeed it was Aiel!

She was standing at the other side of the platform!

Han Lin blinked her eyes and muttered bleary, "Mistress, is that really you? It is really you!"

Aiel laughed in the strong winds, "Lucky I have asked Yi Ping to allow me to come with him!"

Isa, Jing'Er, Shi Shi, Yunzi, Yang Min and Han Lin almost all asked at the same time, "Where is he?!"

The Goddess Aiel smiled wryly before she pointed backward.

Indeed in just a little while, they could see Yi Ping walking up the

platform and behind him were Xian'Er alias the Great Goddess Fantian, the Celestial Goddess Alice, Youxue, the Heaveness Lingfeng and Lie Qing!

All the thousands of celestials froze because the animus aura of this new group was so breathtaking. It was as though time had frozen in place and they were so captivated that they could not even move their little fingers!

Old Reverend Vanquisher Sage had clearly recognized Yi Ping but at the same time, he could not believe that this forbidding practitioner was the same Yi Ping that he had known!

Like all the other celestials, he was not able to move at all and could only stand rigidly!

"Yi Ping! Ping'Er! Yi Ping, Yi Ping!" Isa, Jing'Er, Shi Shi, Yunzi, Yang Min and Han Lin chorus one after each other!

The Celeste Wind Maiden lowered her eyes shyly as did Ziyue. It was because they could not find courage to profess their hearts to him. He was now in a totally different league now and beyond them...

Yi Ping grinned broadly. He was never this happy. He whispered gently to their ears, "I am here!"

This square platform spanned twenty miles by twenty miles but in a blink of an eye, Yi Ping had already sped to them as he patted and embraced Isa, Jing'Er, Shi Shi, Yunzi, Yang Min and Han Lin!

Yunzi was startled as she withheld her tears, "You are really here? I have thought that I have to wait until I could ascend before I could see you once more..."

Yi Ping smiled gently, "Xian'Er has foretold that today is the day of your Divine Calamity. So I am here to give you a helping hand. It is a good thing that I have arrived in a nick of time!"

Lingfeng flurried gently behind them as she smiled to them, "He has sacrificed many precious artefacts just to descend to the lower realm. We cannot afford to sacrifice more. The others that remain in the Immortal

Realm regard their best wishes to you and they sorely miss you!"

Aiel sighed softly, "I have sacrificed a little of my attainment to descend as well. Han Lin, are you happy now?"

Han Lin laughed softly, "Very happy! I am so glad to see you! But don't ever do it again!"

Aiel growled softly, "You think that there will be a next time? Fat chance!"

Yi Ping laughed heartily as he said, "Aiel will always be Aiel. Han Lin will always be Han Lin. Some things never change."

Lingfeng, Lie Qing and Youxue had already crowded around Yunzi and Shi Shi as they said together, "Sister Yun and Sister Shi Shi!"

Youxue said with soft remembrances, "We have been through so much. Finally we have met again! Sister Shi Shi, we will wait for you!"

Lie Qing nodded as she smiled mesmerizingly, "Our sisterhood and friendship are everlasting!"

Xian'Er held Yunzi's hands and smiled gently, "Sister Yun, I am so glad to see you again!"

Yunzi murmured, "Everyone..."

Shi Shi smiled serenely, "I will practice hard! I have missed everyone so much too!"

All of a sudden Yi Ping had walked to the downcast Lady Winter Plum and said gently, "My protégé teacher and brother the Universal Old Man hopes that you are well. He is expecting you in the Immortal Realm. He wants me to say to you that no matter how long or how arduous it takes, he will wait for you. If you are willing to wait for him that long and if you have not ascended, he will surely look for you in the Celestial Realm. He is not able to come because he is training to be an immortal practitioner now."

All the sudden the Lady Winter Plum was heartened as her countenance shone brightly!

She immediately replied shyly, "Please help me to tell him that it is a promise then! Either way, we will wait for each other!"

Yi Ping nodded, "I will."

Suddenly he turned around to address solemnly, "Yunzi and Han Lin. It is time for you to face the Divine Wrath. The rest of us can only be observers but we cannot interfere or else it will be disastrous for you. We will be your guardians to ensure that you will not be disturbed by anyone. I want you to succeed in your ascension!"

Yunzi and Han Lin nodded. They said at the same time, "We will!"

Yi Ping nodded and he turned to say to Xian'Er, Alice, Lingfeng, Aiel, Youxue and Lie Qing, "Everyone, I need your help."

Immediately Xian'Er, Alice, Lingfeng, Aiel, Youxue and Lie Qing had scattered to six different positions as they unsheathed their divine swords!

The Heaveness Lingfeng's divine sword was invisible but her divine sword was still shown as rainbow hues surrounded her invisible blade when held under the basking sun!

Yi Ping had also unsheathed his two divine swords, the Celestial Alice and the Fantian Sovereign!

He said with urgent, "Except for Yunzi and Han Lin, everyone please step back as far away as possible! There is no time to wait. We are going to enable the Seven Heavens Stars Formation."

Yunzi smiled as she unsheathed her divine sword, "You have learnt a new formation in the Immortal Realm?"

Yi Ping nodded as the winds began to beat strongly and everyone could see that the entire heavens had turned dark and purple lightning were zapping in arcs!

Han Lin turned ashen as she looked at the lightning storm fearfully, "Lightning Calamity..."

Yi Ping said quietly, "The chance to ascend is only thirty-percent. If you

have a divine sword, the chance will be upped to forty percent. I won't allow you to fail the divine ascension."

When he had finished speaking, he had quietly merged his two divine swords into the Heaven Defying Divine Sword as the light as a yellow lightning burst forth from the heavens and struck his sword!

At the same time, Xian'Er, Alice, Lingfeng, Lie Qing, Youxue and Aiel were generating sword energies bursts from their divine swords as they displayed the Seven Heavens Star Formation!

Yi Ping held the golden lightning with all his power as he thundered loudly to the heavens, "O' heavens hear me out!"

The entire platform began to tremble as strong winds and purple lightning began to strike all around furiously!

Yi Ping did not fumble but instead he held onto his sword as he gathered the energies of the others in the Seven Heavens Star Formation while channeling the Universal Creation Force. He was steadfast as he said aloud, "I am going to create a miracle here today!"

All of a sudden a silver lining broke the dark heavens and a rainbow had shone forth!

Yunzi and Han Lin were startled at the sight!

At the same time seven beaming white lights had shone upon Yi Ping, Xian'Er, Alice, Lingfeng, Lie Qing, Youxue and Aiel as it returned them to the heavens!

It was followed by two other beaming white lights as it spirited Yunzi and Han Lin upward to the heavens!

Yunzi and Han Li were stunned!

It was because their Divine Calamity had become a Benevolent Divine Wrath!

Xian'Er voice could be heard explaining, "That is because they have done untold goodness. Therefore even the Heaven is kind to them!"

Immediately the entire heavens become bright again and an auspicious

rainbow cloud could be seen drifting above the platform!

A resonating voice identified as Yi Ping could be heard by everyone as it slowly faded, "From on now, whoever wishes to ascend can attempt the Divine Calamity on this platform. This auspicious cloud will be here as an auspicious omen to aid anyone that is attempting to overcome their Divine Calamity. As long as I live, this auspicious cloud will be here..."

Chapter 250: The Immortal Realm

Yunzi and Han Lin were temporary blinded by a bright light as they lost their orientation. They seemed to have lost control of their bodies and they were afraid!

When they finally regained their senses, they were greeted by jovial laughter!

Sweet fragrances welcomed them as they blinked their eyes to adjust their disorientated visions.

They were immediately greeted by the jovial sight of Yi Ping, Isa, Xian'Er, Han Lin, Youxue, Alice, Lie Qing and Lingfeng!

Yi Ping smiled, "Welcome to the Immortal Realm!"

Alice smiled to Han Lin and Yunzi and said gently, "You have achieved attainment. This is the First Heaven of the Immortal Realm!"

This little words from the Goddess Celestial Alice had the effect of stirring the emotions of Han Lin and Yunzi as the realization of reaching the Immortal Realm had finally sunk into them!

Xian'Er was smiling as she took Yunzi and Han Lin hands, "Indeed, this is indeed the Immortal Realm!"

Youxue, Lingfeng and Lie Qing were already crowding around Yunzi as they jostled her happily while Aiel was embracing Han Lin joyfully!

"You have made it!"

"Finally we are together again!"

"Hey, hey are you forgetting about the rest of us?"

It was Lele that was speaking to them!

Yunzi and Han Lin looked up and saw that atop of a hill that was in front of them was another group of people. They were none other than Shen Xingyue the Fiery Phoenix, Ye Yin the Ascension Goddess, Yu'Er the Eclipse Heaven Goddess, Mei'Er the Axis Heaven Goddess, the Goddess Asura, the Great Desolate Goddess Nuwa and Lele!

As they looked up, it was only then that Han Lin and Yunzi had begun to grasp at the wondrous beauty of the Immortal Realm as they caught sight of the dozens of misty rainbows and floating islands that were drifting above them!

Lele laughed jovially, "See, I know that they will succeed. So why all the anxiety earlier? I, the Great Joyful Empress Goddess of the Three Known Realms is here to welcome you. Isn't this supposed to be your greatest honor ever?"

Yunzi smiled as she looked up to the second group, "You are all here as well!"

Xingyue nodded as she smiled angelically, "How can we miss this rare occasion?"

Yu'Er and Mei'Er were laughing softly as they said together, "Sister Yunzi!"

Ye Yin was however looking at Yi Ping as she said melancholy, "You're finally back."

Nuwa turned to Ye Yin as she said indifferently, "Hmph! You are missing him already? He has only been away for just a short while only."

Asura sighed softly, "A year that is passed in the Immortal Realm is like ten years in the Celestial Realm and a hundred years in the Mortal Realm. That is why the Yi Ping is racing against time to settle the affairs of the Celestial Realm and the Mortal Realm first."

Lele looked at Asura, "I so envy that you got to go to the Mortal Realm for a visit."

Asura protested softly, "That is because I have important matter to settle there..."

But Lele was not paying attention as she had flashed next to Yi Ping in the next instant, "Ping'Er, just now when you are in the Celestial Realm, did you see our little girl Yi Si?"

Yi Ping shook his head as he smiled, "She is probably training very hard

to be with us. Moreover, no one knows in advance that we will be descending to the Celestial Realm, not even Isa."

Lele maintained her smiles as she exclaimed coolly, "If she sees you then it may affect her cultivation. She needs to keep her emotions in check to attain speedily. So shall it be then!"

Yi Ping nodded as he patted Lele on her shoulder, "Yes, it is for the best."

As he said that, it seemed that the entire Immortal Realm seemed to be shaking tremendously as lightning began to flash in all directions!

Yunzi and Han Lin were startled as a dark gloomy dome began to descend from above as it parted the heavens above!

They were even more startled that it was the Stellar Sanctuary!

Unlike the malevolent Stellar Sanctuary that had appeared in the Celestial Realm, this Stellar Sanctuary looked benevolent and had a red outline in the middle that looked like a sigil which resembled an eye.

And it was now vibrating a donging sound like a bell that tolled throughout the heavens!

Yi Ping raised his thumb to rub his nose as he turned to face all the maidens that were presented before saying out loud. "I am so glad to see all of you again. Now it is time for me to go."

Yunzi gasped, "Ping'Er, where are you going? Aren't you the Master of the Stellar Sanctuary already?"

She quickly looked at the other maidens but they had all fallen into a solemn silence.

Yi Ping smiled and said, "I am going to challenge the Stellar Sanctuary again. I want to be stronger. We have only less than a hundred years before the Ancient Fortress returned to the Immortal Realm."

Yunzi was shaken as she said the obvious, "So you are leaving now?"

Yi Ping nodded, "I am glad that I have made it in time to witness your divine ascension. But now, I have to go."

He paused as he looked at all the other maidens before saying, "I have to be strong, to be stronger to protect all that I have loved. This is the least thing that I can do. The Stellar Sanctuary is the most perfect place for trials..."

His eyes were beaming. Perhaps this was the only emotion that he could still remember and had an emotional attachment till now.

As he looked at Youxue, Xian'Er, Yu'Er, Mei'Er, Lingfeng, Yunzi, Lie Qing and Xingyue, he remembered how he had met them one by one in the Mortal Realm...

Back then he was only a young startup. He had experienced many fights and experienced more than what others could in their entire lifetime. Because of that, his body pain threshold got denser and denser and his strength improved rapidly.

If a person had never been beaten before, if a person had never suffered before then they would never be able to overcome their own limits and that of that their opponents.

It was easier said than done. Even if you have the will to crush iron with your thumb, would you be able to do so?

Yi Ping had the resolute and the will. He was never deterred by his physical limits and his resolute will would always sketch against his entire strength to maximum his future potential. It was because failure to do so would mean between life and death!

That was the reason why Yi Ping was now able to stand on the lofty peak. But now he needed more challenges. It was because he was now at the initial stage of the Tenth Immortal Positioning and he was striving to attain the intermediate and the late stage of the Tenth Immortal Positioning!

That was why he had to summon the Stellar Sanctuary once again!

Only this time, he had sealed off the entrance of the Stellar Sanctuary to none other than himself!

So now he had become a flash of white brilliant outline!

In a few moments, he would be traversing to the Stellar Sanctuary to begin his new trials!

All of a sudden Lingfeng had flashed to give him a violent kick, causing his focus to be distracted!

He turned around to ask with exasperation, "Lingfeng, what are you doing?"

Lingfeng laughed as she waved her hand to the other maidens who were all nodding, "It is not only me that wants to give an insolent fellow a kick!"

Yi Ping smiled weakly to say, "You mean me?"

Lingfeng laughed softly, "That's right. When did you become so smart?"

Yi Ping groaned softly, "Isn't it obvious?"

Lingfeng softened her tone and said, "Ping'Er, we are going with you. No matter how dangerous it is going to be!"

Xian'Er held Yi Ping's hand to say gently, "We are all determined to go with you. To be together again is not easy. I know that you want to say this will affect our cultivation and meditation but we don't care."

All the maidens had already gathered around Yi Ping!

Nuwa was smiling, "You know I hates that place and I don't want to ever go near that place again. But where you are going, I am going as well!"

Isa was also saying, "The affairs of the Celestial Realm can be put aside. I don't really want to be the Ruler of the Celestial Realm. Maybe in the past, yes but no longer anymore."

Alice was also smiling, "I have already delegated the affairs of the Immortal Realm to the Joyful Empress."

Lele was also laughing jovially, "And I have delegated it back to my grandpa. He is the original ruler anyway!"

Lie Qing leapt into Yi Ping's embrace as she tapped his nose,

whispering mesmerizingly to him. "Just like old times."

Ye Yin folded her arms as she looked at Xingyue with a wry smile, "We are divine sword practitioners. What better place to test our skills other than the Stellar Sanctuary?"

Xingyue smiled angelically, "Skills at arms is just one thing. Cultivation is another matter."

Ye Yin smiled amicably, "You may be right or else why you are able to catch up with me. So is our challenge is still on?"

Xingyue smiled, "Naturally! Whoever kills the most number of big bosses or contribute to the party most will be the most superior!"

Yu'Er and Mei'Er said at the same time, "Don't forget about us as well!"

Yi Ping secretly smiled. It was because he knew that the two of them had already put aside their bitter rivalries and was now very close sisters. In fact, Xingyue, Ye Yin, Yu'Er and Mei'Er were particular close to each other!

Even Aiel was saying, "I may not be of much help but I have brought ample supplies of healing pills for this trip!"

Han Lin said excitingly, "I don't want to be struck at the lower heavens and I want to be with everyone. Only the Stellar Sanctuary allows us to be in the same group. This is all that I want. Let me go as well!"

Yi Ping said aloud, "Since everyone has already made up their minds, let's go then!"

All the maidens nodded happily and excitedly!

Before long, there were a brilliant white outlines that surrounded everyone as they were drawn into the Stellar Sanctuary!

All of a sudden the white form of Yi Ping turned to Lingfeng and said, "Wait Lingfeng! I have upped the difficulty of the Stellar Sanctuary by five times and it is irreversible until the time is up..."

Lingfeng's voice could be heard scolding him lightly, "You buffoon! You pig head!..."

"I didn't know that you are coming! So why didn't you tell me in advance?..."

The rest of the maidens were all laughing jovially as their white outlines flared brilliantly before they disappeared into the Stellar Sanctuary!

Credits

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